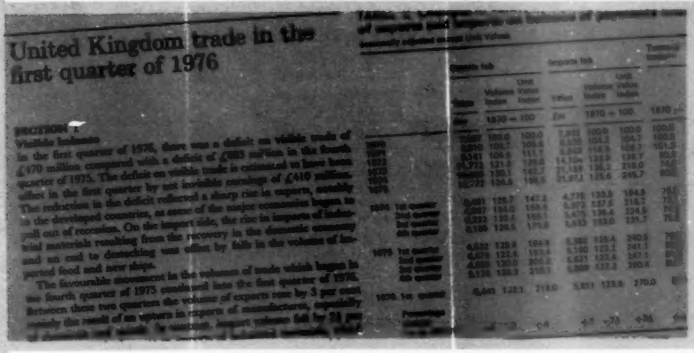
Trade and Industry

18 June 1976 25p

Flame-retardant process gains ground

Ship simulator launched

Overseas fairs: regular feature



United Kingdom trade in the first quarter of 1976

UK trade: quarterly and monthly figures

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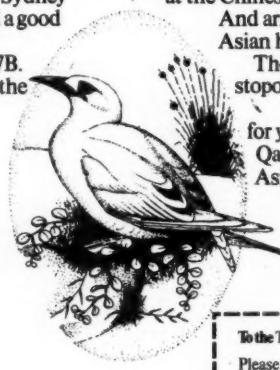

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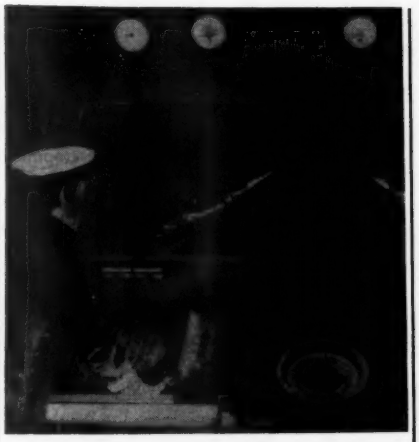
Trade and Industry

18 June 1976

News from the Departments of Industry·Trade·Prices & Consumer Protection



Part of the wheelhouse of the new Decca ship simulator, showing the view through the bridge window. It is the first ship handling simulator to be built in Britain and is described in an article on page 702 of this issue.

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Editorial address
Room 439 1 Victoria Street,
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Editorial inquiries: 01-215 5730

Editor:	Alan Williams	01-215 5653
Deputy editor:	C. R. Kabraji	01-215 5654
Features and Technology:	Geoff Sedgwick Jennifer Clarke	01-215 5656 01-215 5074
Special Features and Promotion:	John Bentley	01-215 5655
European Community and Overseas trade:	Gillian Samuel Alex Mayne-Reid	01-215 5620 01-215 3016
Art and pictures:	Bob Priestley	01-215 3118
Circulation control:	Christine Swinyard	01-215 5021
Advertisement manager:	Colin Beadle	01-242 6264

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Home News

New scheme will provide £23 million for paper and board industries

A new scheme providing £23 million for the paper and board and the paper making machinery manufacturing industries has now been announced by Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry on 15 June.

In answer to a Parliamentary Question from John Ovenden (Gravesend) Mr. Varley said: 'I propose to make £23 million available under Section 8 of the Industry Act 1972 for a scheme to assist the paper and board industry and the paper making machinery manufacturing industry.

'The paper and board industry occupies an important position in the United Kingdom economy but is heavily dependent on imported wood pulp, and faces strong competition from imports of paper products. Increasing the industry's use of indigenous fibre, especially waste paper, will improve its competitiveness and, by reducing imports, help to bring substantial benefits to the balance of payments. The scheme will provide grants of 25 per cent – the highest level currently available for this type of scheme – towards the cost of plant, equipment and innovatory processing systems, together with grants of 15 per cent for associated building work. Grants of 25 per cent will also be available towards the approved cost of additional storage facilities for waste paper.

'The scheme will be operated on a selective basis and only for projects approved in advance by my department. Stress will be placed on the prospective savings on the balance of payments.' He went on to say that the scheme operated as from 15 June and that a Supplementary Estimate would be presented at the first opportunity.

Mr. Varley pointed out that the scheme would help to increase the recycling of one of the most useful of our waste materials, namely waste paper. 'It shows the Government's determination to play a full part in reducing waste and conserving valuable resources in our economy and society.

'In preparing this scheme the Government has taken into account the objective stressed by the Advisory Group on Waste Paper Recycling and by the Waste Management Advisory Council, of providing those organisations responsible for the collection of waste paper with greater assurance of continuity in demand. Rather than give assistance towards stock building, the Government has concluded that its most effective contribution towards achieving this objective can be made by encouraging the paper and board industry to invest in capital plant and to expand recycling technology, to increase the potential use and capacity for processing indigenous fibres, especially waste paper; and by assisting the expansion of storage facilities for waste paper. The high levels of grants available under the scheme reflect the importance attached by the Government to these measures.

'My department will continue to play its part in further consideration of the industry's requirements for raw materials, including by the Sector Working Party for Paper and Board, and the Waste Management Advisory Council.'

Firms eligible to apply are those engaged in the UK in the manufacture of paper or board and (for part of the scheme) in the manufacture of machinery for use in the paper or board manufacturing industry.

Assistance may be given, for approved projects, for the purchase and installation of plant and equipment, with associated buildings and works, for using increased quantities of waste paper or other indigenous fibres; the construction of new buildings or modifications to existing buildings or facilities, for storing increased quantities of waste paper; and for the development, proving, etc. of new systems of machinery to extend the use of waste paper or other indigenous fibres in paper and board manufacture.

Assistance will be given in the form of a grant towards the net eligible costs (ie total eligible cost less any Regional Development Grant) of projects mainly at 25 per cent.

To qualify for assistance the project must form part of an overall plan designed to increase the applicant's capacity to use indigenous fibres. Repair and maintenance of existing facilities are not eligible. Minimum qualifying limits will apply. Applicants will also need to satisfy the department of their viability, of the commercial viability of the project itself, and that the company has the management, commercial, financial and technical capability to carry out the project.

Applications for projects on which expenditure was incurred before 15 June are not eligible but later phases of a scheme already begun may be eligible. Applications must normally have been received by the department by 30 June 1978.

Application forms and detailed guidelines for applicants will be available shortly from PTM Branch, Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, London SW1P 4QU (01-211 5143) or from the department's Regional Offices responsible for the area in which the project will be located.

Central Policy Review Staff to study problems of electrical plant suppliers

Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, announced on 15 June that the Central Policy Review Staff are to carry out a study of the problems facing the turbo-generator and boiler making industries supplying electrical plant for power stations.

In a written reply to a Parliamentary Question from Norman Buchan (Renfrew West) Mr. Varley said, 'The Central Policy Review Staff have been asked to carry out urgently a study covering both the short and longer term problems facing the turbo-generator and boiler making industries supplying electrical plant for power stations and to report in the autumn. CPRS will be making an interim report, before the summer recess, on such of the preliminary conclusions as are relevant to the shorter term problems of the industries.'

This announcement reflects concern about the major plant manufacturing industries for power stations which are now adversely affected by the current low level of orders from the UK generating boards and increasing competition for exports in world markets.

The two industries most directly affected are the turbo-generator manufacturers and the water tube boilermakers.

Three-day week study published

A study of the three-day week is published today, 18 June (HMSO, £2).

In July 1974 the Department of Industry, in consultation with the Department of Employment, commissioned Inbucon/AIC Management Consultants to carry out a detailed study of the three-day week, which covered the first three months of 1974. The main purpose was to see whether any productivity gains were achieved during three-day working, as was commonly believed, to assess the extent to which these represented permanent improvements, and to see if any lessons could be drawn which would be of longer-term benefit to industry in general or

would provide useful pointers for policy.

The consultant's report, based on a sample of firms, does not bear out the widely-held view that there were major increases in productivity during the period of the three-day week. Output in the sample was found to have averaged about 83 per cent of normal for about 79 per cent of normal hours worked, implying only a small increase in output per direct labour hour. (The fall in output was greater than the fall in the industrial production index to 94 per cent because the sample was confined to firms affected by restrictions while many other were not.) Management and employees generally agreed that this modest increase arose from better communications between them and the desire to maintain earnings. On average, gross earnings of employees were maintained at around 85 per cent of the normal level. However, most of the companies providing profit figures showed severe reductions or even losses, though profits generally returned to normal levels after the emergency.

Although a few companies used the emergency as an opportunity to improve their industrial relations, in general the improvement was short lived. As might have been expected, the smaller, closely-knit companies with good industrial relations were noticeably more successful in maintaining their high effort and morale.

The study also brings out some interesting points about attitudes to work. Any temporary attraction of more leisure time in exchange for fewer but longer working days disappeared rapidly once the difficulties were over: subsequent efforts to negotiate four-day 40-hour weeks were unsuccessful. The evidence suggests that 10-hour working resulted in flagging effort over the last two hours. The period of extra effort and co-operation was limited variously by growing fatigue, the fading novelty element and gradual disenchantment with the cause of the crisis.

The study suggests that the main lessons which the three-day week provided for individual companies were:

1 the benefits of better forward planning;
2 the need for sound information and planning systems to aid decision making at times of crisis;
3 the benefits of improved management-employee communication;
4 the potential for energy saving.

To what extent these lessons were followed up after the ending of the three-day week did not fall within the ambit of the study; although the modest increases in productivity achieved during, and just after, the three-day week suggest that there is scope for improving output from existing investment.

Companies Registration Office opened at Cardiff

The Companies Registration Office had played a 'major and fundamental' role in the commercial development of this country, said Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping on 11 June. Mr. Clinton Davis was speaking at the formal opening of the new Companies Registration Office at Cardiff.

'In the 130 years since it was first established as the custodian of what has been described as one of the great British inventions – the joint stock company with the once radical concept of limited liability – the CRO has undoubtedly played a major and fundamental role in the commercial development of this country,' he said.

'The CRO has developed into a major organisation, which has grown steadily over recent years, until it was no longer sensible, or even possible, to maintain all its operations in London. Fortunately, with modern techniques it was not necessary to do so.

'The days when information could be obtained only by looking up a large dusty file are now rapidly coming to an end. Microfilming will provide much speedier access, as well as making the job more convenient for everybody concerned.

'Even more important, searchers will no longer have to attend personally at the CRO to get information. Instead, the office will be able to send copies of the micro-filmed records direct to inquirers throughout the country. Cardiff will provide an ideal base for this wider operation.

'Full facilities will continue to be provided for those who wish to search the records at the CRO – whether in London or Cardiff – and I hope that business people in South Wales will take full advantage of the proximity of this new service.

'But the building will also serve the people of South Wales in another way. One of the principal considerations which the Government had in mind in selecting Cardiff as the new home for the Companies Registration Office was of course the need to provide additional jobs in South Wales. This new office will make a significant contribution to employment by providing 700 jobs by the end of the year – many of them for young people – at a time of particular economic difficulty.'

The 'tape' is microfilm I Stanley Clinton Davis opens Companies Registration Office at Cardiff. Looking on are Richard Westley, Registrar of Companies for England and Wales, and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Iorwerth Jones.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 437, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, and *not* to HMSO.

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INDUSTRIAL & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

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Carafes of wine to be sold in prescribed quantities

Carafes of wine when consumed on the premises will have to be sold in prescribed quantities. A draft Order giving details of new regulations was laid before Parliament on 8 June by John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection. In his reply to a written question from Miss Jo Richardson (Barking) Mr. Fraser said:

'I have today laid before Parliament a draft Order which, subject to Parliamentary approval, will require that wine in carafes for consumption on the premises shall only be sold in the following prescribed quantities: 25 cl, 50 cl, 75 cl and 1 litre; or 10 fluid oz and 20 fluid oz. The draft Order would also require a written statement showing the quantities in which wine in carafes is offered on those premises to be displayed.'

Notes

The new Order which will be known as the Weights and Measures (Sale of Wine) Order 1976 is made under Sections 21(2), 21(3) and 54(4) of the Weights and Measures Act 1963. It will revoke the 1974 Order which came into operation on 2 September 1974 requiring wine sold for consumption on the premises of the seller to be sold only by capacity measurement. The new Order which also applies to wine or British wine sold for consumption on the premises of the seller, except when prepacked in a securely closed bottle (whether or not the wine is to be decanted at the request of the buyer before being served) or when sold in the glass from which the wine is intended to be drunk, requires that wine shall be made up in advance in a container for such sale of if not made up in advance be sold only in specified quantities in the metric and imperial systems. It also requires a statement in writing to be displayed on the premises or that information should be included in every wine list and menu that indicates that wine is available for consumption on the premises.

The Order, which is subject to Affirmative Resolution of both Houses, will come into force on 1 January 1977. Copies may be obtained direct from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn, London WC1 (or branches) or through any bookseller, price 8p.

Trade inquiries on the draft Order should be addressed to Metrology, Quality Assurance and Standards Division, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection, Abell House, John Islip Street, London SW1P 4LN, tel. 01-211 3524 or 01-211 3895.

Prices and the consumer: John Fraser speaks to the National Food and Drink Federation

'It is a vital part of our strategy in the fight against inflation that the consumer is given every possible assurance that the fight is continuing and that it will be successful,' John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection told the annual conference of the National Food and Drink Federation in Harrogate this week.

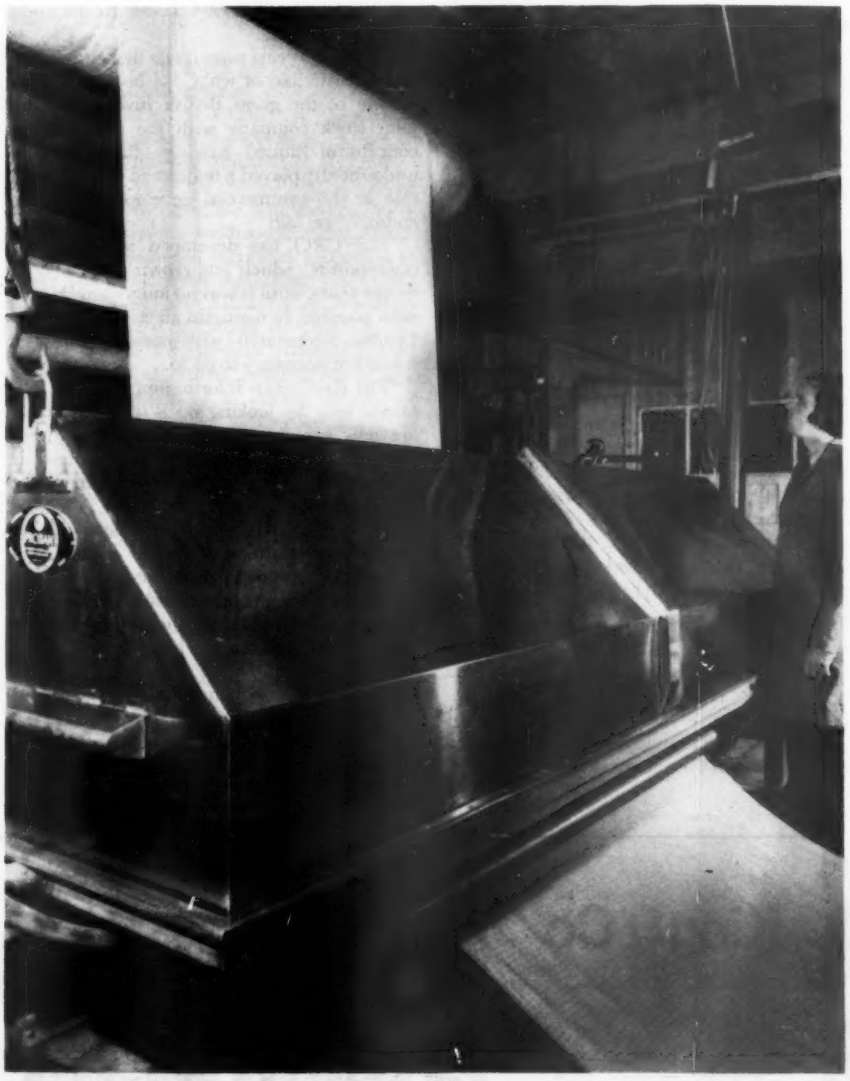
'For shoppers throughout the country the Price Check Scheme is perhaps the most visible action we have taken in our fight against inflation.'

He pointed out that the Price Commission mid-term report of last month noted that out of 43 groups of products covered by the Scheme, the prices of four had increased, but by less than 5 per cent; 33 had remained stable within half of 1 per cent; and six had actually fallen during the two months covered by the report.

'When we launched our attack on inflation last summer, food prices were then rising at an annual rate approaching 30 per cent.'

Making special exchequer grants available to enable local authorities and others to conduct local price comparison surveys showed, Mr. Fraser said, that the Government was

Home and overseas success for flame-retardant process



Two more factories in the UK – at Bolton and Manchester – have installed Proban-X curing units for flame-retardant textile finishing. In the two years since Albright and Wilson introduced the improved Proban-X process, several curing units have been sold in Britain, and five have been exported. Over half Albright and Wilson's production of the chemical is sold overseas The Department of Health and Social Security has just approved Proban cotton counterpanes and curtains for use in National Health Service establishments. The curing units are made by Holgate, Fishwick and Leather, Bury. The curing unit pictured here is at the factory of G. and J. Slater, Bolton, and the cover shows a unit at the premises of A. C. Bealey and Sons, Radcliffe, Manchester.

determined to match the pay curbs with help over prices.

He said there were now over 240 weekly price surveys in operation.

First official history of HM Coastguard

Coastguard! published on 11 June, is the first official history of HM Coastguard, the organisation responsible for co-ordinating civil marine search and rescue around the 2,500 miles of Britain's coastline.

HRH The Prince of Wales – who served as an auxiliary coastguard while at Gordonstoun School – has contributed a foreword to the book.

He writes 'How many people realise what selfless service has been rendered by coastguards since their formation over 150 years ago? Their job will always continue to be of vital importance to this country, and as an old and proud member of HM Coastguard I can certainly sympathise with and perhaps, to a certain extent, understand the task they carry out. I shall look forward to the 200th anniversary of the service with complete confidence in its continual professionalism and dedication.'

Coastguard! has been written by William Webb, a senior information officer in the Department of Trade. It required extensive research into old naval records and other documents, for over the years the service has come under numerous different authorities, and no continuous records were kept.

The book traces the 150-year history of the service from its early days as an anti-smuggling organisation, through its period as a naval reserve force, until it was finally established as an organisation concerned primarily with search and rescue under the control of the Board of Trade.

Today the service employs 650 full-time and 7,000 auxiliary coastguards and forms part of the Marine Division of the Department of Trade. Besides co-ordinating search and rescue operations through a network of stations around the coasts, coastguards operate the radar network for the Channel Navigation Information Service, and provide the communications service for trawler support ships off Iceland.

Patents endorsed 'Licences of Right'

Under Section 35 of the Patents Act 1949 the following patents were endorsed 'Licences of Right' on the date specified.

Number	Grantee	Subject-matter
21 May 1976		
1,242,013	The Post Office	Improvements in or relating to apparatus for coating the interior surfaces of tubes
1,413,721	The Post Office	Improvements in or relating to subnetworks for filter ladder networks
1,413,722	The Post Office	Improvements in or relating to filter networks
1,416,536	The Post Office	Wire wrapping apparatus
1,306,859	Licentia Patent-Verwaltungs-Gesellschaft mit beschrankter Haftung	Improvements relating to communication receivers
1,312,930	Licentia Patent-Verwaltungs-Gesellschaft mit beschrankter Haftung	Improvements relating to automatic gain control arrangements
1,358,317	Licentia Patent-Verwaltungs-Gesellschaft mit beschrankter Haftung	Improvements in or relating to multiple beam cathode ray tube arrangements
1,323,227	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	A light sensitive silver halide photographic material
1,352,532	Agfa-Gevaert Aktiengesellschaft	A stabilised photographic silver halide material
1,360,633	Mars Ltd.	Metering device for flowable solids
1,373,088	Mars Ltd.	Improvements in beverage-dispensing machines
1,083,348	Warren Max Shwayder	Armour for stopping drills and the like
1,227,958	Coal Industry (Patents) Ltd.	Panels for solid fuel fired stoves
1,265,675	Perry of Oakley Ltd.	Improvements in and relating to containers for meals and fine powders
1,331,855	Lambeth Howarth and Sons Ltd.	Improved method for the production of slippers or shoes
1,340,442	Societa Italiana Resine SIR SpA	Process for manufacturing linear alkyl benzenes

Any person who claims that the patentee at the time of endorsement of any of the above patents was precluded by a contract in which claimant is interested from granting licences under the patents may apply for cancellation of the endorsement on Patent Form No. 45 within two months after the date of endorsement.

E. Armitage
Comptroller

Stanley Clinton Davis, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Companies, Aviation and Shipping, at the current trade marks centenary exhibition. With him is Ronald Moorby, assistant registrar of trade marks. The exhibition is being held this week and next at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London WC2.

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New price limits for butter

The statutory maximum retail prices of butter have been increased by 2p per half pound from 10 June. The new limits, contained in an Order laid before Parliament on 7 June by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, are necessary because of the reduction in the butter subsidy announced on 2 June (*Trade and Industry*, 11 June, page 644).

Prices in the shops will generally remain below the new limits. Prices should not increase for some time in many shops because of the existence of substantial stocks purchased at prices subject to previous subsidy levels. The extent to which they may rise continues to be governed by the requirement that distributors' profits on butter – the percentage difference between their buying and selling prices – should not be increased.

Notes

The Order is the Butter Prices Order 1976 – SI 1976 No. 873 (12p).

The new maximum prices for salted butter sold in certain rectangular packs weighing from 8 oz to 1 lb are:

Category of butter	Pence per ¼ lb
Butter produced in the UK (other than blended)	28
Other EEC butter (other than blended)	28
New Zealand butter (other than blended)	26
Blended butter of any variety and of any origin	27
Any other variety (other than blended)	28

In accordance with the Prices Acts the provisions of the Order have been the subject of consultations with interested organisations.

Butter is not in the Price Check Scheme because of our obligations to our community partners under the CAP.

Enforcement is carried out by local weights and measures authorities in Great Britain and by the Department of Commerce in Northern Ireland.

Price Regulation Orders are also in force for bread, cheese, tea and household flour.

Consent to transfer Devon newspaper

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, has given consent, under Sections 58(4) of the Fair Trading Act 1974, to the acquisition by Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd. of three local newspapers published by the Mid-Devon Newspaper Company Ltd., a subsidiary of Beaverbrook Western Ltd.

The effect of Section 58(4) of the Fair Trading Act 1973 is that the Secretary of State may consent to the transfer of a newspaper without requiring a report from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission where she is satisfied that the newspaper concerned in the transfer has an average circulation per day of publication of not more than 25,000 copies.

Clearance of merger proposals

Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection has decided, on the information at present before her, not to refer the following proposed mergers to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973:

Scapa Group Ltd. and Thomas Hardman and Sons Ltd.

William Baird and Co. Ltd. and Thomas Marshall (Investments) Ltd.

Croudace Holdings Ltd. and Maybrook Properties Ltd.

Generale Occidentale SA and Cavenham Ltd. and Generale Alimentaire SA

Chenderoh Electricity (Malaysia) SDN BHD and The Perak River Hydro-Electric Power Co. Ltd.

'T & I' index inquiries

Readers wanting to know when articles and items of information were published in *Trade and Industry* should consult the published indexes which are issued free to subscribers. For material published in recent months, inquiries of this kind can be made to the Department of Industry Library's indexing section, tel. 01-215 5842.

Insurance Companies Act 1974: authorisations and revocations

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were issued by the Secretary of State for Trade under Section 3(1) of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 May to 31 May 1976.

Name of insurer, registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of authorisation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was issued
Fuji Fire and Marine Insurance Company (UK) Ltd., The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE	—	18.5.76	LIAB, MAT, MV, PL, PA, PROP

The following authorisations to carry on insurance business in Great Britain were revoked by the Secretary of State for Trade under Section 9 of the Insurance Companies Act 1974 during the period 1 May to 31 May 1976.

Name of insurer, registered office or address in Great Britain	Country of incorporation if outside Great Britain	Date of authorisation	Class or classes of insurance business for which authorisation was revoked
Australian and Eastern Insurance Company Ltd., Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3LS	Australia	18.5.76	PL, PROP
The Cheltenham Mutual Plate Glass Insurance Society Ltd., 10 Royal Crescent, Cheltenham GL50 3DA	—	5.5.76	PROP
The Scarborough and District Plate Glass Mutual Insurance Company Ltd., 17/18 Pavilion Square, Scarborough, Yorks YO11 2JT	—	5.5.76	MV, PROP
The Workington and District Grocers and Provision Dealers Association, Ingarth, South William Street, Workington, Cumbria CA8 2ED	—	5.5.76	PROP

Classes of business

I	Industrial assurance business
LIAB	Liability insurance business
MAT	Marine, aviation and transport insurance business
MV	Motor vehicle insurance business
OLT	Ordinary long term insurance business
PL	Pecuniary loss insurance business
PA	Personal accident insurance business
PROP	Property insurance business

Well records viewing facility now available

Microfilm examination facilities of records of exploration wells in the North Sea are now available at the Department of Energy.

The first 99 North Sea well records are now available in microfiche form, and it is expected that a further 200 such records will be issued during 1976. The Department of Energy holds details of some 800 wells altogether and these are being added to at the rate of 70 to 80 annually.

The information has been microfilmed on to 16mm film and the microfiches can be purchased from HMSO. Microfiche viewing facilities to examine the records before purchase are now available at the library of the department. Additional viewing centres will be opened in the next few months in the Offshore Supplies Office at Aberdeen and the Institute of Geological Sciences, Leeds.

With the agreement of the oil companies concerned, interpretive data has been removed.

'Training for North Sea oil' booklet

'Training for North Sea Oil', a booklet published last week by the Scottish Office at the request of the Oil Development Council for Scotland, reviews the facilities available to the oil industry under the public training system and Group Training Associations sponsored and supported by Industrial Training Boards.

The booklet outlines the work done for both the offshore and the onshore sectors of the industry, and refers to courses being run at the Underwater Training Centre, Loch Linnhe, and the Drilling Technology Training Centre at Livingston.

It also deals with post graduate and diploma courses available in universities and institutes of technology, and indicates the range of grants available to trainees.

Compensation proposed for British Gas price restraint

Compensation to the British Gas Corporation for price restraint during the year 1974/75 would be payable under a Draft Order laid before the House of Commons on 10 June.

The Draft Compensation for Limitation of Prices (British Gas Corporation) Order 1976, subject to an affirmative resolution in the House of Commons, will allow the Secretary of State for Energy to make a payment of £28,949,333 to the Gas Corporation for their compliance with the national policy relating to prices limitation during 1974/75.

The Memorandum to the Draft Order explains that the sum involved corresponds to the actual deficit incurred by the Corporation because of price restraint but that it is less than the previously announced deficit for the year. The original deficit incorporated in the Annual Report and Accounts for 1974/75 included a provision for the settlement of trigger clause claims affecting gas previously supplied under supply contracts of Southern Basin gas producers. The claims have now been agreed and settled.

Draft orders to implement proposals of the Director General of Fair Trading

Two draft Orders* have been laid before Parliament by Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and were published on Monday 14 June. They give effect to proposals put forward by the Director General of Fair Trading in references to the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee and agreed, or agreed subject to modification, by the Committee. The Orders are subject to affirmative resolution by both Houses of Parliament.

One Order will ensure that consumers are not misled about their statutory rights should the goods they purchase be faulty. It prohibits the use of notices and documents which purport to exclude those rights and requires that, where goods, containers or documents carry a statement about consumers' rights against the supplier or about obligations accepted by the supplier or manufacturer, should the goods prove faulty, such a statement should be accompanied by a further statement to the effect that consumers' statutory rights are not affected.

The other Order contains provisions giving effect to the proposals relating to one of the three practices covered by the Committee's report 'Prepayment for Goods'. The Order requires that advertisements for mail order transactions where payment is required in advance should state the name of the seller and the address where his business is managed

The Consumer Protection Advisory Committee disagreed with the Director General's proposals for dealing with transactions other than mail order ones, and these cannot therefore be implemented.

Careful consideration has been given to the Director General's proposals for dealing with dates for delivery and refund of payments in respect of mail order transactions and to the modifications of those proposals suggested by the Consumer Protection Advisory Committee. However, objections arise on grounds of both legal policy and vires and it has therefore been decided not to give effect to those proposals.

* The Consumer Transactions (Restrictions on Statements) Order 1976. Published by HMSO, price 20p (26½p by post).
The Mail Order Transactions (Information) Order 1976. Published by HMSO, price 12p (18½p by post).

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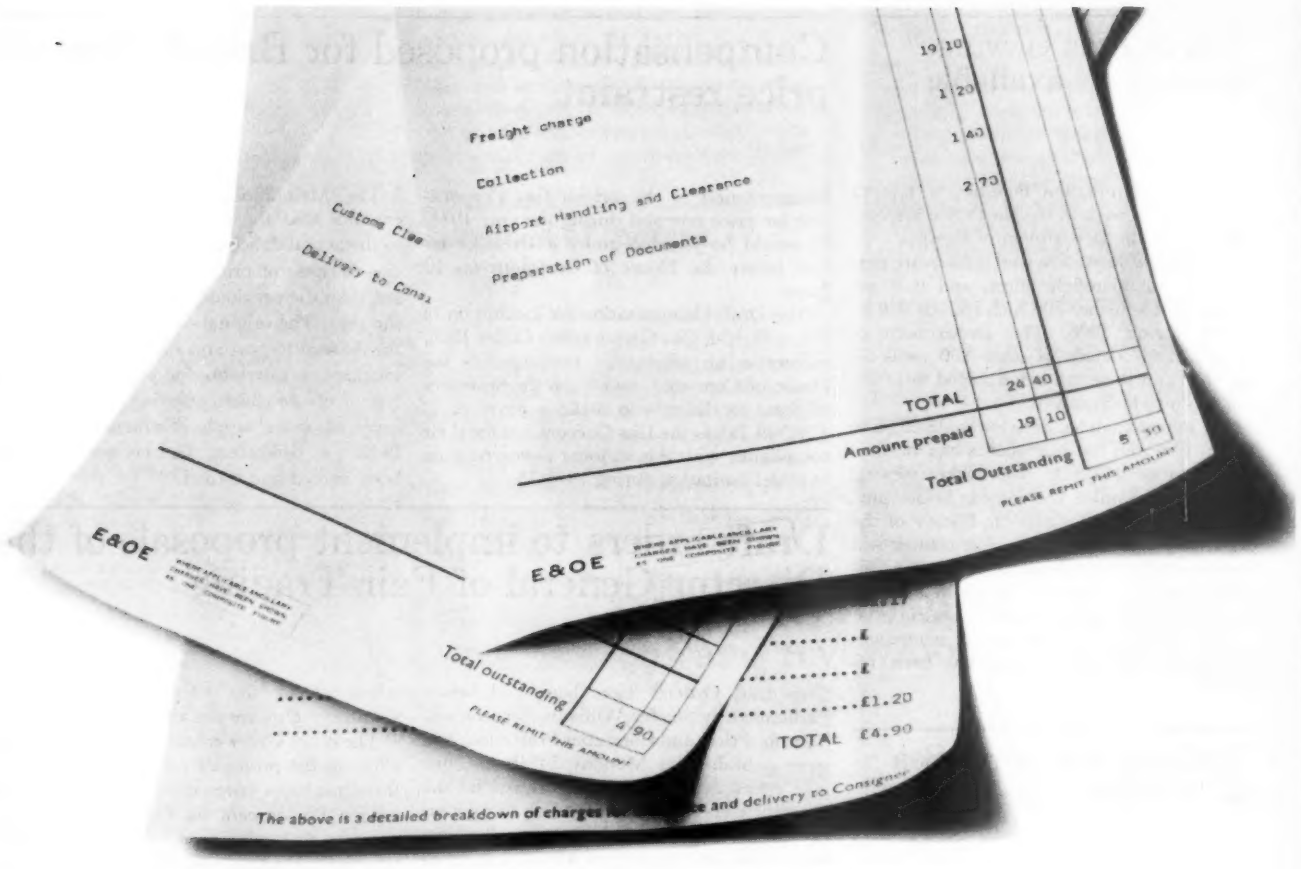

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Air freight companies will arrange delivery for you. But since this is an expensive service for them to lay on, naturally you will have to pay. The Post Office interlocks with postal administrations overseas, so delivery is easier for us. There is usually no charge, and if there is, the amount which is collected from the recipient is nominal.

Since our rates are virtually inclusive, there's another advantage: you know the cost of sending and delivery the moment you hand your parcel to us.

The Post Office

If you would like to know more about our Air Parcel Service, contact Bob Johnson, Room 127F, FREEPOST, Postal HQ, St. Martin's-le-Grand, LONDON EC1B 1HQ. Or telephone 01-432 4049.

Price Commission interventions during May

During May the Price Commission rejected 15 notifications of price increases from manufacturing and service companies in Categories I and II. In another 19 cases the companies concerned withdrew their notifications of intended increases and in 47 cases the extent of the increases was reduced by the Commission. The lists of firms affected are shown below.

Since the beginning of Stage 4 on 20 December 1974, the Commission have rejected a total of 244 notifications and modified 1,145. 389 notifications were withdrawn.

During May, following discussions with the Price Commission, 7 distributors in Category II agreed to make price reductions amounting to £0.52 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits as revealed in their periodic returns.

Following inspection of records kept by enterprises in Category III, the Commission's Regional Offices secured the agreement of 210 distributors, 23 manufacturers, 51 service enterprises, 12 professional enterprises and 10 construction enterprises to make price reductions amounting to £6.49 million in order to eliminate excess gross or net profits. In addition, the Regional Offices secured a total of 55 individual voluntary price reductions following investigation of complaints about price increases.

Rejections

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Marley Floors Ltd.	Roofing products	9.77
Category II		
Bestmore Tool and Edge Tool Co. Ltd.	Hammers	10.00
Castlegreen Storage Distribution Ltd.	Rents and the handling of casks and cases in bond etc	9.89
Edenhall Concrete Products Ltd.	Blencowe plant bricks	5.13
	Earby plant bricks	5.48
	Edenhall plant blocks	£0.065 per sq. m.
	Bricks from Blencowe	8.53
	Bricks from Earby	8.75
	Blocks from Edenhall	10.00
Firestone Rubber and Tyre Co. Ltd.	All products	Not quantified
Hay's Transport Services Ltd.	Road haulage charges	19.10
Honeywell Ltd.	Automatic control equipment, electronic panels, electronic thermostats, electric thermostats, valve motors and spares	30.40
	Heating controls: modutral motors, thermostats and spares	6.60
	Spot and emergency repair rates, period service and maintenance contracts for automatic control equipment	13.40
	Microswitch products	13.80
Redwood Burn Ltd.	Book printing and binding	3.93
Ross and Catherall Ltd.	Cast sticks in air and vacuum melting	10.62
Ross and Catherall Ltd.	Permanent magnets	10.85
The Wellcome Foundation Ltd.	Themalon lice and mange liquid etc	6.76-25.75

Withdrawals

Company	Product	% increase sought
Category I		
Blaw Knox Ltd.	Range of road sweepers	0.64
Ciba-Geigy (UK) Ltd.	Phthalocyanine pigments (blue)	5.50
Imperial Tobacco Ltd.	Cigarettes	0.38
ITT Consumer Products Ltd.	All products (TV and audio products, speakers and record players)	10.87
Wallington Weston and Co. Ltd.	Consort, Format and Stageflor flooring, folding doors, plastic sheeting cores	5.45
Category II		
Armco Ltd.	Steel culverts and guard rail	15.22
E. N. Bray Ltd.	Marine engine starters	10.00
M. and T. Cruickshanks Ltd.	Electroplating chemical products	12.02
Devro Ltd.	Sausage casings	3.14
	Sausage casings	6.86
GAF (Great Britain) Ltd.	After sales servicing of diazo machines	19.24
James Halstead Ltd.	PVC flooring, sheeting and extrusions (unsupported)	5.94
Haverhill Meat Products Ltd.	Sausage, cooked and canned meats, lard and shortening	3.00
Iridon Ltd.	Plastic products	8.50
Kingsmead Carpets Ltd.	Tufted carpets	7.50
Linread Ltd.	Range of aircraft fitting fasteners	1.78
Moresecure Ltd.	Steel shelving and storage structures and erection services	8.80
Newcastle Warehousing Co. Ltd.	Bonded warehousing charges	12.00
Octel Associates Ltd.	Anti-knock compounds and mixtures:	
	TEL	2.20
	TML	1.00

Modifications

Company	Product	% increase sought	% reduction made (percentage points)
Category I			
Anson Cast Products Ltd.	Range of manufactured products	6.65	0.14
Bakelite Xylonite Ltd.	Polyethylene resins	11.40	0.13
Barclays Bank (London and International) Ltd.	Charges for share registration services	52.50	7.60
BOC International Ltd.	Cutting machines	4.40	0.10
Butlins Ltd.	Amusement rides at Littlehampton Amusement Park	26.07	2.25
Firth and Cleveland Fastening Ltd.	Nuts and miscellaneous fasteners	12.93	0.63
George F. Homer (Redditch) Ltd.	Cold rolled steel strip	13.48	0.12
ICI Ltd.	Diphenylamine	8.71	0.08
	Calcium chloride flake	11.48	4.30
	Chloromethanes	8.31	0.07
	Perchloroethylene and trichloroethylene	13.16	0.09
Monsanto Ltd.	Low density polyethylene	14.07	0.30
T. R. F. Pland Ltd.	Sinks, catering and hospital equipment	11.11	0.35
Sun Printers Ltd.	Gravure and letterpress printing	3.29	0.08
Triplex Safety Glass Co. Ltd.	Safety glass	3.59	0.64
Category II			
Edgar Allen Foundry Ltd.	Steel castings	11.50	0.41
W. and T. Avery Ltd. and Henry Pooley and Sons Ltd.	Servicing and repair of weighing machinery and allied equipment	2.68	0.48
Belfast Steamship Co. Ltd.	Ferry service charges	6.58	1.21
British Gas and Oil Burners Ltd.	Burners	5.80	0.02
Burgess Architectural Products Ltd.	Steel ceiling tiles and acoustic enclosures	4.45	1.45
Bursgreen (Durham) Ltd.	Machine tools	8.90	0.71
H. A. Coombs Ltd.	Rubber bands	9.50	1.43
Godfrey Davis (Car-Hire) Ltd.	Self-drive cars, self-drive vans, self-drive heavy goods vehicles, chauffeur hire, collision damage waiver	6.85	0.04
Declon Foam Plastics Ltd.	Domestic and industrial sponges	10.21	0.03
The De La Rue Co. Ltd.	Decorative laminated sheet	5.98	2.83
	Engraving	6.86	2.60
Gerrard Industries Ltd.	Seals	18.85	0.04
Greengate Cables Ltd.	Electric power cables	10.22	0.86
James Halstead Ltd.	PVC flooring (unsupported), PVC sheeting and extrusions	8.58	0.01
Lankro Chemicals Ltd.	Polyester range	15.75	0.02
Marshall (Engineers) Ltd.	Repetition machine parts	10.74	0.25
Oldham and Sons Ltd.	Automotive batteries	11.30	1.28
Peglers Ltd.	Plumbers' and engineers' brassware	7.11	0.06
S. Russell and Sons Ltd.	Iron foundry products	14.14	1.72
W. E. Saxby (Nottingham) Ltd.	Dyed and finished textiles	4.00	0.65
Sefton Newspapers Ltd.	Advertising rates	12.41	0.32
Sevalco Ltd.	Carbon black	11.02	0.31
Staveley Chemicals Ltd.	Chemicals	14.90	5.40
The Steetley Company Ltd.	Pelletised grades and grains and powder products of refractory magnesia	7.94	1.87
Swan National Ltd.	Self drive vehicle hire	7.80	5.00
Tarmac Ltd.	Dry and coated roadstone and industrial materials	1.62	0.02
Telion Steels Ltd.	Storage products	8.94	0.76
BTP Tioxide Ltd.	Titanium tetrachloride	25.69	0.04
Tungstone Products Ltd.	Automotive batteries	8.04	0.82
John Williams of Cardiff Ltd.	Iron castings	10.50	0.10
Robert Wilson and Sons Ltd.	Beef-based canned products Group A	5.74	0.15
Woodhead Components Ltd.	Steel processing	11.42	0.29

Government Sales

Ministry of Defence

Sales by Auction

26 June 1976 Furniture

Location: Roman Way Camp, Mersea Road, Colchester, Essex

Auctioneers: Fenn Wright Garrod Turner, 146 High Street, Colchester, Essex CO1 1PW (tel. 0206-46161)

A small sale of some 500 lots of household furniture and effects which will be sold as single items or in small quantities to suit personal buyers.

1 July 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Golden Hotel, King Street, Stirling, Scotland

Auctioneers: Dixon and Wallace (Dept. L), Bank Buildings, Graham Square, Glasgow G31 1AW (tel: 041-554 2447).

The stores which are lying at various depots in Scotland include service clothing and footwear, furniture, household and kitchenware, textiles, industrial stores, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap, watches, binoculars, telescopes etc. Albion 10 ton 6 × 4 truck (mounted repair shop), AEC Matador 5 ton truck, three Leyland 10 ton 2,500 gal refuellers, Thorneycroft 5 ton 4 × 4 fire fighting truck, Alvis 5 Ton 6 × 6 fire fighting truck, Landrover fire tender, two Bedford RL 4 × 4 trucks, six Landrovers, Ford Commer and BMC vans, Commer office truck, eight Austin mini vans, Bedford coach, BMC 250JU utility, Morris ½ ton pick-up, Eagle 450 gal tanker trailer, Sentinel aircraft towing tractor, Morrison 15 cwt electric truck, two Ford Cortina estate cars, two Morris mini saloons, Austin 1800 saloon and a Morris 1000 estate car. Ransomes 4,000 lb fork lift, two Lansing 2,000/2,500 lb fork lifts, Lansing Bagnal pedestrian operated fork lift, Keith and Blackman blacksmith forge, Alba shaping machine, drilling machines by Herbert, Adcock and Shipley, Pollard, Medding and Denbigh. Tyzac chain morticing machine, six Harrison lathes, Herbert mechanical saw, Sager routing machine, Lang and Canning buffing machines, Herbert milling machine, Massey pneumatic hammer, Pickles surface planing and thicknessing machine etc.

7-8 July 1976 Miscellaneous stores

Location: The Astoria, Roundhay Road, Leeds 8,

Auctioneers: Bartle and Son (Dept. L), 52 Merrion Street, Leeds LS2 8JH (tel: 0532-450898).

The items on offer include a Landrover, Ford and Morris cars, vans, mobile crane, fork lift trucks, lathes, milling grinding and sawing machines, compressors, dynamometer, de-greasing plant, gravity rollers, lifting equipment, welding plant, various tools, wireless and signal equipment, MT spares, tyres and batteries. Carpets, bivouacs, blankets and kitbags. Household and office furniture including several hundred small lots specially lotted for the individual buyer.

Catalogues for the above sales which give details of the lots, conditions of sale, viewing times etc. are available from the auctioneers from two weeks before and up to the day of the sale, price 20p (10p for Colchester on 26 June) postage and packing 10p extra (postal orders only).

Department of Trade

Ship for Sale For scrap only

Offers are invited for the purchase of the undermentioned Grab Dredger 'as lying' at HM Dockyard, Portsmouth.

'Servitor' Steel, built 1935. GT 572.36. NT 299.41. Length (BP) 168 ft 0 in. Breadth (mld.) 32 ft 0 in. Depth (mld.) 13 ft 0 in. Light displacement not known. Engine: single screw, steam, oil fired, triple expansion, surface condensing by Fleming and Ferguson. IHP 609.

Copies of form of purchase agreement, further particulars, plan and authority to inspect can be obtained from the Department of Trade, Room 42, Parliament Square House, 34/36 Parliament Street, London SW1A 2ND, tel. 01-212 8996.

Offers should be addressed to the Department of Trade, Room 43, at the above address in envelopes clearly marked 'Offer to Purchase "Servitor" ' and must be received not later than *noon* on 20 July 1976.

The above information is given for guidance only and any prospective purchaser must satisfy himself regarding actual details of the vessel and her present condition.

'T & I' index inquiries

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ENCIRCLE TI 71 ON PAGE 760 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Parliament

Monday, 7 June

Small firms

Mr. David Mitchell (Basingstoke) asked for the most recent estimate of the number of small firms as defined by the Bolton Inquiry in the UK.

Mr. Williams replied that post-Bolton statistics of any reliability are available for the retail, manufacturing and construction sectors only. He gave the following numbers of small firms taken from the latest published censuses for these sectors as follows:

Manufacturing	70,595	Census of Production 1970
Retail	416,667	Census of Distribution 1971
Construction	89,151	D of E Private Contractors Construction Census 1973

The Bolton Report estimated that 16.2 per cent of small manufacturing enterprises, 27.4 per cent of small construction firms and 64.4 per cent of small retail shops were either partnerships or sole proprietorships. There is no evidence to suggest that these percentages have materially altered.

Mr. Mitchell also asked for the most recent estimate of the number of persons employed by small firms.

Mr. Williams said that for the retail, manufacturing and construction sectors, the numbers of people employed in small firms taken from the latest published censuses were as follows:

Manufacturing	1,621,066	Census of Production 1970
Retail	779,033	Census of Distribution 1971
Construction	161,030	D of E Private Contractor's Construction Census 1973

Computers

Mr. Edwin Wainwright (Dearne Valley) asked what action the Secretary of State for Industry would take to ensure an increase in the export of computers.

'The help of the Department of Trade is available to assist, exporters of computers and computer services,' said Mr. Williams. 'The future of the computer industry, including its export potential, is under consideration as part of the Government's industrial strategy.'

EEC directive on advertising

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked what consideration has been given to the EEC commission's first draft directive on the prohibition by member states of misleading and unfair advertising.

'Consideration of the draft directive by the EEC commission is at a very early stage,' Mr. Fraser replied. 'My officials are in close touch with interested organisations in this country, including those representing consumers and the advertising industry, and will keep their views in mind in future discussions within the community.'

Retail Prices Index

Mr. Ron Thomas (Bristol North West) asked for the percentage rise in the Retail Price Index as published to one decimal point between April 1974 and April 1976.

'Between April 1974 and April 1976 the Retail Price Index increased by 44.7 per cent,' said Mr. Maclennan.

Mr. Thomas asked: 'Which items of goods and services included in the Index of Retail Prices attract a subsidy?'

Mr. Maclennan said: 'Subsidies expressly designed to hold down prices are paid in respect of the following goods and services:

Milk
Butter
Household flour
Most types of cheese, bread and tea
School meals
Some rents and rates
Some bus fares

'All these items are included in the Retail Price Index. It is not possible to identify precisely the many other items included in the RPI whose prices may be affected by government financial support provided for other express purposes. For example, some rail fares are subsidised for the purposes of maintaining services and the prices of many other items may be indirectly affected by schemes designed to create or maintain employment.'

Food subsidies

Mr. Nicholas Winterton (Macclesfield) asked for estimates of the reduction in the cost of living arising from the Government's food subsidy programme for various households.

Mr. Maclennan gave the estimated current weekly savings in food expenditure as follows:

1 Single retirement pensioner household	23p
2 Married retirement pensioner household	39p
3 Married couple with two children	65p
4 Married couple with four or more children	91p

Mr. Winterton asked for a list of foods at present subsidised; and the current level of subsidy on each unit.

Mr. Maclennan gave the following list of subsidised foods and the estimated level of subsidy in terms of its effect at the retail level:

Milk	2p per pint
Butter	7p per lb
Cheese	10p per lb
Bread	2p per large loaf
Tea	8p per lb
Household flour	3p per 3 lb bag

Mr. Michael Neubert (Havering, Romford): referred to the Government's decision not to proceed with the child benefit scheme, and asked if any change was proposed in the published programme for the phasing out of food subsidies.

'Child benefits under the Child Benefit Act 1975 will be introduced in April 1977,' said Mr. Maclennan. 'My Rt. Hon. Friend has no plans to change the overall programme for food subsidy expenditure.'

The 'Green Pound'

Mr. Winterton asked for a list of the amounts by which various foodstuffs are subsidised due to the discrepancy between the £ sterling and the Green Pound.

Mr. Maclennan answered: 'The present gap between the representative rate of the pound, the "Green Pound", and the market exchange rate is 22.4 per cent. This gap is largely made up by Monetary Compensatory Amounts (MCAs) which are paid out of the EEC Budget and act as subsidies on many food imports into the UK. The MCA percentage for the week beginning 7 June is 20.9 per cent except for common wheat for which it is 28.4 per cent. The effect of these arrangements on the retail food index is to the order of 4 per cent-5 per cent. The savings

Ministers at the Department of Industry

Secretary of State for Industry: Eric Varley
Ministers of State: Alan Williams
Gerald Kaufman
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Lord Melchett
Leslie Huckfield

Ministers at the Department of Trade

Secretary of State for Trade: Edmund Dell
Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State: Michael Meacher
Stanley Clinton Davis

Ministers at the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection: Shirley Williams
Minister of State: John Fraser
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State: Robert Maclennan

to which they give rise on the prices of some of our principal food imports in the week beginning 31 May was:

	£ per tonne
Common wheat	14.2
Beef carcases	184.8
Bacon sides	143.8
Butter (82 per cent)	188.5
White sugar	33.3

Metrication Board

Mr. Michael Brotherton (Louth) asked several questions about the staffing and cost of the Metrication Board.

Mr. Fraser said that the total cost of the Metrication Board from its inception in April 1969 to the end of 1975, the latest date for which figures are available, was approximately £3,842,000.

The following are members:

		Salary
Chairman (part-time)	Lord Orr-Ewing	£4,665
Deputy Chairman (part-time)	Mr. J. M. Wood	£2,577
Members (part-time)	Dr. M. A. Abrams	£750
	Dr. B. N. Baxter	£750
	Miss F. K. College	£750
	Mr. E. Cust	£750
	Mr. D. H. Darbishire	£750
	Mr. D. C. Dewar	£750
	Mr. J. M. Ferguson	£750
	Mr. D. Hobman	£750
	Miss D. D. Hyams	£750
	Mr. D. M. Landau	£750
	Prof. M. L. McGlashan	£750
	Mr. H. P. Scanlon	£750
	Mrs. A. Stanley	£750
	Mrs. J. Upward	£750

Mr. Fraser said that there are 60 staff employed by the Metrication Board. Precise staff costs are not available because of recent changes but an approximate figure would be £195,000 per year. Since 23 March 1976 the number of staff of the Metrication Board had decreased by four.

The monthly costs of the Board are not readily available and could not be provided without disproportionate cost, but the average monthly cost of the Board for the year 1975 was £76,170.

'The expenditure incurred by the Metrication Board on advertising since 23 March 1976 is £500,' he said.

Imports of chrome

Mr. Nicholas Ridley (Cirencester and Tewkesbury) asked: 'What has been the average tonnage of chrome imported into the United Kingdom in recent years, from South Africa?'

'Annual imports of ores and concentrates averaged 74,000 metric tons over the last five years,' said Mr. Meacher.

Trade with EEC

Mr. Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea North) asked: 'What has been the visible trade balance of the UK with the other members of the EEC in 1976 up to the latest date for which figures are available?'

'In the first quarter of 1976 there was a visible trade deficit with the EEC of £392 million, seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis,' said Mr. Dell.

Mr. Neil Marten (Banbury) asked: 'What was the UK trade balance with: (a) the EEC (b) the rest of the world and (c) the Commonwealth for the years 1973, 1974 and 1975; and what proportion of this represented Great Britain's total trade with each area.'

Mr. Dell gave the information as follows:

Overseas Trade Statistics basis

	UK overseas trade with					
	EEC		Rest of world		Of which Commonwealth	
	'Crude' balance of trade (a) £ million	Proportion of total trade (b) Per cent	'Crude' balance of trade (a) £ million	Proportion of total trade (b) Per cent	'Crude' balance of trade (a) £ million	Proportion of total trade (b) Per cent
1973	−1,172	13	−2,175	11	−637	13
1974	−2,214	17	−4,469	17	−580	10
1975	−2,386	16	−1,848	6	−29	0

(a) The 'crude' balance of trade is the difference between imports valued cif and exports valued fob.
(b) This represents the crude balance as a proportion of the sum of imports cif and exports fob. For convenience the proportion is expressed as a positive number throughout.

Mr. Marten asked for the percentage of imports and exports, respectively, for the years 1974 and 1975 with the EEC.

Mr. Dell replied: 'In 1974, on a balance of payments basis, exports to the EEC accounted for 33 per cent of total exports, while imports from the EEC accounted for 35 per cent of total imports. The corresponding figures for 1975 are 32 per cent and 38 per cent respectively.'

'What estimate has been made of the decline of intra-community trade between countries of the EEC in comparison with the export demand generated by these countries as a whole for the years 1973 to 1975, respectively?' asked Mr. Marten.

Mr. Dell told him that intra-community trade accounted for 52 per cent, 48 per cent and 49 per cent of total EEC imports in the years 1973, 1974 and 1975 respectively.

European Community exports to Japan

Mr. Tom Arnold (Hazel Grove): asked the Secretary of State for Trade what discussions he has recently held with EEC colleagues about facilitating the export of European Community goods and services to Japan.

Mr. Dell said: 'My Department takes an active part in EEC discussions on trade with Japan, and has contributed to the preparation for the talks which commission representatives will be having with the Japanese Government in Tokyo on 10 and 11 June.'

Unctad IV

Mr. Bryan Gould (Southampton, Test) asked what efforts were made, during the course of the Unctad IV Conference, to co-ordinate a policy on commodities with our Common Market partners.

Mr. Dell answered: 'The position of the EEC on this question was discussed at the Council of Foreign Ministers on 3/4 May; and throughout the Conference itself we played a full part in meetings between the EEC countries within the wider framework of discussions in the developed countries' group.'

UK trade

Mr. Peter Morrison (City of Chester) and Mr. Michael Neubert asked for the latest projections for the balance of trade for the year ending 31 March 1977.

Mr. Dell replied: 'The latest external trade figures show that, under the impetus of renewed export growth, our visible trade balance continued to improve in the first quarter of this year following the marked reduction in the deficit between 1974 and 1975. The prospects for our exports in the coming year are very favourable and provide a strong expectation that the improvement in visible trade will be maintained.'

Euro-control charges

Mr. Michael Morris (Northampton South) asked if the Secretary of State for Trade would ensure that the Euro-control charges fully cover costs in the next fiscal year; and if he would initiate immediate negotiations with the other countries concerned to achieve this.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered, 'These charges are subject to agreement by all member States of Eurocontrol who have already determined the recovery rate in the next fiscal year. It remains UK policy to press for full cost-recovery at the earliest possible date.'

Anti-dumping

Mr. Michael Shersby (Hillingdon, Uxbridge) asked about progress being made in dealing with anti-dumping applications in respect of imported textiles from the Far East and elsewhere.

'We have currently five applications in respect of imported textiles,' said Mr. Michael Meacher. 'An anti-dumping duty on ladies' rubberised raincoats from Hong Kong was imposed on 21 May. Investigation of polyester fibre from Romania is well advanced and an announcement will be made shortly. Other cases concern men's suits from Eastern Europe and pvc coated fabrics from Hungary. In both of these, investigations are in hand but further information is awaited from the industries concerned. The fifth application relates to Austrian rayon yarn. My department are in touch with the industry on this.'

Mr. Bruce Douglas-Mann (Merton, Mitcham and Morden) asked the Secretary of State for Trade, from what firms, companies and organisations he had received representations about alleged dumping of rubberised garments in the UK; what is the total volume and value of UK sales of such garments; what proportion is represented by imported and what proportion of such imports were alleged to

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news. Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

have been sold at artificially low prices: how many employees in the UK are engaged in the production of such garments; what action his department has taken as a result of such representations and with what result; and what is his estimate of the cost expressed either in terms of the time of officials or money or both, of taking such action.

Mr. Dell replied: 'Following representations by the major UK producers of ladies' rubberised fabric raincoats an anti-dumping investigation was carried out into imports of such raincoats from Hong Kong and the Republic of Korea. As a result it was concluded that imports from Hong Kong had taken place at dumped prices with consequent material injury to the UK industry and that it would be in the national interest to take action against them. Accordingly an anti-dumping duty of £1.50 per raincoat was imposed from 21 May 1976. No action was taken against imports from the Republic of Korea as no evidence of dumping was found.

'Details of the UK sales of these raincoats and the effect of imports were given to the department in commercial confidence and cannot be disclosed. The officials concerned were during the period of the investigation involved in several other cases. It would therefore be virtually impossible to estimate with any accuracy the time and/or money expended on the investigation.'

Imports of knitwear from SE Asia

Figures were requested by Mr. Jim Marshall (Leicester South) showing the quantity of imports, by volume, in 1974 and in 1975 from Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan for knitted garments in categories, tariff headings 60.04 and 60.05, in a comparable form to the quota figure in the MFA and allied agreements and for the quantity of imports, by volume, in the first three months of 1976 and comparable figures for 1975, for knitwear tariff heading 60.04 and 60.05 in a comparable form to the quota figures in the MFA and allied agreements from the same countries.

Mr. Dell gave the following information:

Country	Tariff heading	Description of goods	Unit of quantity	1974	1975	Jan.-Mar. 1975	Jan.-Mar. 1976
Hong Kong	ex 60.04	Knitted shirts	Thousand	9,203	12,535	3,178	2,913
		Knitted under garments other than shirts	Tonnes	1,300	936	225	314
	ex 60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans and the like	Thousand	15,903	21,763	5,037	5,318
		Other knitted outer garments	Tonnes	1,838	2,734	607	845
South Korea	ex 60.04	Knitted shirts	Thousand	859	1,628	553	230
	ex 60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans and the like	Thousand	10,973	13,535	3,139	3,067
		Other knitted outer garments	Tonnes	123	459	89	199
Taiwan	ex 60.04	Knitted shirts	Thousand	3,022	3,568	1,012	649
		Knitted under garments other than shirts, tights and panti-hose	Tonnes	39	41	11	18
	ex 60.05	Jerseys, pullovers, cardigans and the like	Thousand	14,891	18,057	4,308	1,963
		Other knitted outer garments	Tonnes	328	692	120	47

Note: The statistical headings given above correspond as closely as possible to the quota headings, but in some instances are not exactly identical.

Companies Acts

Mr. William Molloy (Ealing North) asked what proportion of companies registered in London have not yet filed their annual returns for 1974-75 as required by the Companies Acts.

Mr. Clinton Davis answered that 79,000 companies have not yet filed an annual return for the calendar year 1974 and the returns of 245,000 companies are outstanding for 1975. They represent 12 per cent and 38 per cent respectively of live companies on the register.

Registry of Business Names

Mr. Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight) asked how many representations the Secretary of State for Trade has received following his decision to discontinue the inquiry service formerly provided by the Registry of Business Names.

'Two postal inquiry services, those operated by the Companies Registration Office and the Registry of Business Names, were discontinued at the same time, on 1 October 1975,' said Mr. Clinton Davis. 'Some 30 representations have been received about the cessation of these services. Only two related specifically to the Registry of Business Names.'

Accident to tanker at La Coruna

Mr. Robert Adley (Christchurch and Lymington) asked about discussions between the Department of Trade, the British Embassy in Madrid and the Spanish authorities concerning the recent disaster involving the tanker Urquiola *at La Coruna.*

Mr. Clinton Davis replied, 'On 22 May the Spanish Embassy in London relayed to the department a request for the loan of a quantity of dispersant spraying equipment. This and associated equipment was despatched by air on 24 May. Apart from this one direct contact with the Spanish authorities, the department has endeavoured to keep in touch with developments in the pollution clearance operation through various channels, including the British Embassy in Madrid and the tanker's insurers.'

Public bodies

Mr. Nigel Forman (Sutton, Carshalton) asked the Secretaries of State for Industry, Trade and Prices and Consumer Protection for the total costs to public funds of the public bodies for which they are responsible and the total number of people employed in these bodies.

For the Department of Industry, Mr. Huckfield said 'About £337 million in 1975/76. The total excludes capital investment by the nationalised industries and National Enterprise Board, and payments to public corporations (such as loans drawn from the National Loans Fund, and issues of public dividend capital) not classified as public expenditure. The total also excludes the expenses of the English Industrial Estates Corporation, which form part of the cost of the factory building programme.'

Approximately 646,000 people are employed.

Mr. Clinton Davis, for the Department of Trade, said: 'About £73.2 million in 1975/76, of which £60.5 million was in respect of the grant in aid to the Civil Aviation Authority. The total excludes capital investment by the CAA and nationalised industries, and payments to public corporations (such as loans drawn from the National Loans Fund, and issues of public dividend capital) not classified as public expenditure.' About 69,000 people are employed.

For the DPCP Mr. Fraser said: 'About £7.4 million in 1975/76.' From the latest available employment figures, the total is 1,416.'

Tuesday, 8 June

Financial assistance to aircraft industry

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked what was the total amount of financial assistance provided by government to the privately owned aircraft industry in the 20 years from 1956 to date; how much of this assistance took the form of subsidies; what were the figures for subsidy assistance for each year from 1965 onwards to date; and for a list of the recipient companies.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'Full records on a comparable basis are not available, but total assistance to the privately-owned aircraft industry from 1956/57 to 1975/76 inclusive is estimated at about £780 million in gross terms and at historic prices. This total includes launching aid, civil research contracts, and the development and production of the Concorde airframe. It excludes support for Short Bros. and Beagle Aircraft Ltd., the purchase of the assets of Rolls-Royce Ltd., and support for aeroengine projects after February 1971. Investment grants and other forms of support not exclusive to the aircraft industry are also excluded. None of the assistance was in the form of subsidies. Full details of the recipient companies are not available, but with minor exceptions all support was given to the British Aircraft Corporation, the Hawker Siddeley Group, Rolls-Royce Ltd., or to one of the companies subsequently incorporated in these groups. Many other companies will, however, have benefited through sub-contracts.

'In addition, the aircraft industry is eligible for general schemes of assistance to industry as a whole such as investment grants, regional development grants, other assistance under the Local Employments Acts, Industry Act 1972 and regional employment premium. Separate figures in respect of these schemes for the aircraft industry are not available.'

Furniture Development Council

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked for information on the Furniture Development Council.

Mr. Williams replied: 'The functions assigned to the Furniture Development Council are specified in the Furniture Industry Development Council Order 1948. Its principal activity is the collection of a levy on the furniture manufacturing industry, the proceeds of which are used to finance collective research carried out by the Furniture Industry Research Association.

'The members of the council are as follows:

Independent members:
Sir Roger Falk, OBE – chairman
Dr. E. G. West, OBE

Manufacturers' representatives:
P. B. Allnatt
M. Ferguson
C. E. Gibbs
F. Glenister
J. Harle
W. B. Kelly
P. G. Levin

Employees' representatives:
T. Cheney
G. Crump
J. Hardman
J. F. McCarron
B. Rubner
R. S. Shube
W. E. Vince

Marketing and distribution interests:
J. A. Jacobs

'Apart from the chairman, who receives £250 p.a. in respect of salary and expenses (at present under review) the members of the council are unpaid. The council employs a paid staff of two persons.'

South African workers

Mr. J. W. Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr) asked the Secretary of State for Trade: 'How many of the 500 company chairmen he wrote to in January 1975 have co-operated with his department in supplying on a regular basis information relating to the wages and conditions of South African workers; and if he will list those from whom such co-operation has not been forthcoming?'

Mr. Meacher answered: 'The exact number of British firms with South African affiliates is uncertain, but at least 100 of the 500 firms approached by my predecessor have satisfied the department that they no longer operate in South Africa or do not employ Africans. 59 firms have provided information to the Department of Trade. 36 of them have published on the lines requested in the White Paper and the remaining 23 appear to have provided information to shareholders or to have notified them of its availability. I shall be prepared to name the firms who have refused to co-operate, when all the firms concerned have had a reasonable opportunity to reply and a complete list can be compiled.'

Fire risks of plastic furnishing

Sir Bernard Braine (South East Essex) asked what research has been recently carried out under government auspices or by industry into the hazards of plastic furnishings in the home in the event of serious fire; and what were the findings in each case.

Mr. Fraser said: 'A three-year research project, sponsored by the Government, to investigate the fire hazards of plastic materials used in the manufacture of furniture was completed last summer. The report on the third and final year of this research, undertaken by the Rubber and Plastics Research Association under the direction of the Fire Research Station, was published last month. Among the findings, it was shown that in fires involving sitting/dining room furniture, under well ventilated conditions, traditional furniture is relatively difficult to ignite compared with modern furniture containing foamed rubber and polyurethane upholstery foams. It also burns less rapidly and produces less smoke. Experiments indicated that the flammability of a modern commercial suite could be reduced to resemble that of traditional furniture by the substitution of less flammable fabrics and by incorporating suitable interlining materials. The basic data from this project are being used in current government financed research concerned with the development of test methods for determining the ignitability and flammability of upholstered furniture.

'In addition, the Fire Research Station is engaged on a continuous programme of studies into the behaviour in fire of plastics in furniture and fittings and this programme is kept under regular review.'

Sir Bernard Braine said that plastic foam materials involved in fires on domestic premises are likely to have been the cause of injury and death and asked what action is proposed to warn the general public about the risks of using such materials in the home.

'Such materials present no risks if normal precautions are taken to prevent fires occurring,' said Mr. Fraser. 'The Government and other bodies already promote a great deal of publicity on this subject and I do not think there are any specific warnings or advice concerning plastic foams which would serve any purpose.'

Wednesday, 9 June

Petroleum and petroleum products

Figures were asked for by Mr. David Howell (Guildford) showing the values in £ million, and indices of the volume and values, of UK imports and exports of petroleum and petroleum products, using the SITC classification of Table 12 of the current monthly press notice on the balance of payments for 1960 to 1975.

Mr. Meacher gave the following information:

DIVISION 33 PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS — £ million (1970 = 100)

	Imports			Exports		
	Value (cif)	Unit value index	Volume index	Value (fob)	Unit value index	Volume index
1960	480	106	48	107	99	61
1961	481	102	50	95	99	55
1962	532	100	57	117	97	69
1963	557	99	60	118	99	68
1964	582	97	64	102	97	61
1965	599	92	69	108	94	67
1966	611	86	76	114	93	78
1967	714	94	82	118	95	72
1968	882	109	86	149	104	82
1969	886	102	93	147	101	84
1970	925	100	100	176	100	100
1971	1,185	123	104	213	114	106
1972	1,166	123	102	219	113	111
1973	1,678	165	110	341	172	113
1974	4,533	474	103	696	409	100
1975	4,168	542	83	721	459	92

Shipbuilding on Humberside

Mr. Kevin McNamara (Kingston upon Hull Central) asked for a statement on the prospects for shipbuilding on Humberside in both the private and public sector.

Mr. Huckfield answered: 'The Selby yard of the Drypool Group Ltd. (in receivership) was taken over by Cochrane Shipbuilders Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of United Towing Ltd., on 2 June which should assure its future. Whitby Shipyard Ltd. has negotiated with the Receiver and Beverley Borough Council for the eventual takeover of the Beverley yard. It has a licence to operate within the yard from 1 June to 30 September and will assume ownership on 1 October. Work is expected to commence in July on an order for four tugs and two water carriers and will be carried on side by side with the Receiver's completion of an existing order for a tug. It is expected that additional jobs will arise as a result of this arrangement.

'Alexandria Dock in Hull is being used by the Receiver for the outfitting of two ships and work should last until the end of October. It is probable that the facilities of Drypool Group Ltd. will be used in future for ship-repairing. Two docks have already been sold to Yorkshire Dry Docks Ltd. and discussions are continuing on the others. The other shipbuilders in the Hull area also build small ships. The small yards traditionally have much shorter order books and are less badly affected by the present shortage of orders than the major shipbuilders. Their prospects at the moment seem reasonable with, in general, order books extending to the end of this year and in some cases into next year.'

Thursday, 10 June

British assets in South Africa

Mr. John Lee (Birmingham, Handsworth) asked for information on the total value of fixed British assets situated in South Africa, at the latest valuation; the six most important companies or firms owning assets in those countries; and whether any steps are being taken to persuade the owners to liquidate their assets.

Mr. Meacher said: 'The most comprehensive information available relates to the total book value of British investment in South Africa which was estimated by the Reserve Bank of South Africa to have been £1,750 million at the end of 1971, the latest available date. The figure relates to British investment in tangible fixed and intangible assets, current

assets, trade and other investments. Separate information is not available specifically on British investment in tangible fixed assets. UK statistics are obtained from the census of overseas assets which covers only the book value of direct investment, excluding oil, banking and insurance. The recent census in respect of 1974 is being worked on at present, but the results will not be available for publication in aggregate form until the autumn of 1976. It is not possible to disclose the names of the largest contributors to statistical inquiries, and no published source exists from which the six companies with the largest investment in South Africa could be compiled. The Government's general policy on investment in South Africa remains as stated by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on 4 December 1974. We have encouraged British firms to adopt enlightened employment practices in South Africa, and are considering further measures to this end.'

Imports and exports

Mr. David Howell (Guildford) asked for the current values in £ million and indices of value and volume for (a) imports and exports of SITC classes 5, 6, (b) imports of SITC classes to 5 and 8 and (c) exports of SITC classes 2, 4, 5 and 6 from 1949 to 1974 and the quarters of 1975 and for exports of SITC classes 7 and 8 from each year 1949 to 1974 and for the quarters of 1975 for which figures are available.

Mr. Meacher gave the following:

Friday, 11 June

Film industry

Mr. Hugh Jenkins (Wandsworth, Putney) inquired about progress in implementing the recommendations of the Working Party on the Future of the British Film Industry, other than those requiring legislation.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'With the exception of certain recommendations endorsing present arrangements or calling for non-Governmental action, only one proposal by the Working Party is in a form which would not require prior legislation. This is the release under existing powers of £2.37 million to the National Film Finance Corporation. As already announced, this is being authorised.'

Galvanising plants

Mrs. Renée Short (Wolverhampton North East) asked how many galvanising plants there are in the UK; how long these have been established; and how many complaints have been received about possible health hazards to the community near such plants.

Mr. Williams replied: 'According to available information there are 106 general galvanising plants in the UK. These vary from small plants with one galvanising bath to plants with four or five large baths. Also there are four sheet galvanising lines, four tube galvanising plants and around 20 wire galvanising plants. The ages of such plants vary from new to those with equipment around 20 years old (although buildings may be much older). My department has received no complaints about health hazards arising from the operation of galvanising plants.'

Greenwells ship-repairers

Mr. Gordon A. T. Bagier (Sunderland South) asked the Secretary of State for Industry, what offer has been received from the Bristol Channel Ship Repair Company for the taking over of Messrs Greenwells ship-repairers of Sunderland.

Mr. Kaufman said: 'Proposals to take over the lease of the Greenwell premises should be made to the leaseholders, Sunderland Shipbuilders Ltd. A written offer made on 25 May by Sunderland Shipbuilders to sub-lease the Greenwell yard to Bristol Channel Ship Repairers on broadly the same terms as those enjoyed by the previous operators – terms which Bristol Channel Ship Repairers had said they were willing to accept – has received no substantive response.'

Shipbuilding and ship-repair on Merseyside

Mr. Mike Thomas (Newcastle upon Tyne East) asked: 'What was the value of total output of ship-repair work in the North East and Merseyside, respectively, for the latest available period'.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'It is estimated that the output of ship-repair work by commercial yards in the third quarter of 1975 was £18 million in the North East and £6 million in the North West. Separate figures for Merseyside are not available.'

Mr. Thomas asked how many persons were employed in shipbuilding in the North East and Merseyside.

Mr. Huckfield gave the following available information in respect of the shipbuilding *industry* which includes shipbuilding, ship-repairing and marine engineering.

	Exports									Imports					
	Total manufactures Value*	Semi-manufactures			Industrial materials			Finished manufactures			Semi-manufactures			Total manufactures		
		Value	Unit value index	Volume index	Value	Unit value index	Volume index	Value	Unit value index	Volume index	Value	Unit value index	Volume index	Value	Unit value index	Volume index
SITC(R)	Sections 5 to 8	Sections 5 and 6			Sections 2, 4, 5 and 6			Sections 7 and 8			Sections 5 and 6			Sections 5 to 8		
	£ million fob	£ million fob	1970 = 100		£ million fob	1970 = 100		£ million fob	1970 = 100		£ million cif	1970 = 100		£ million cif	1970 = 100	
1949	1,541	782	—	—	869	—	—	759	—	—	332	—	—	432	—	—
1950	1,870	952	—	—	1,098	—	—	918	—	—	389	—	—	490	—	—
1951	2,258	1,186	—	—	1,386	—	—	1,072	—	—	692	—	—	811	—	—
1952	2,219	1,088	—	—	1,264	—	—	1,131	—	—	655	—	—	832	—	—
1953	2,164	1,064	—	—	1,216	—	—	1,100	—	—	509	—	—	703	—	—
1954	2,199	1,053	72	52	1,204	73	54	1,146	59	48	563	73	32	729	72	24
1955	2,421	1,158	73	57	1,330	74	59	1,263	60	52	764	80	41	970	77	30
1956	2,672	1,242	75	60	1,439	75	63	1,430	63	57	750	81	40	984	78	30
1957	2,814	1,294	76	62	1,481	77	63	1,520	65	58	744	73	41	1,012	73	31
1958	2,757	1,185	75	57	1,363	75	59	1,572	67	58	674	68	40	977	70	32
1959	2,922	1,264	73	62	1,446	74	64	1,658	68	60	750	69	44	1,127	71	36
1960	3,105	1,324	74	64	1,518	75	66	1,781	70	63	1,005	71	57	1,522	74	49
1961	3,258	1,363	74	65	1,570	74	68	1,894	71	64	975	71	55	1,531	73	47
1962	3,336	1,386	74	66	1,596	75	68	1,950	72	65	955	70	55	1,556	72	49
1963	3,568	1,438	75	68	1,656	76	70	2,130	74	69	1,050	71	61	1,702	73	52
1964	3,773	1,580	77	73	1,784	78	74	2,193	75	71	1,324	72	73	2,161	75	63
1965	4,095	1,696	80	76	1,894	81	77	2,399	78	76	1,370	76	72	2,253	77	64
1966	4,390	1,768	83	77	1,974	83	78	2,623	81	79	1,479	79	74	2,471	79	67
1967	4,386	1,790	83	78	1,982	83	79	2,595	84	76	1,599	79	79	2,844	80	76
1968	5,413	2,218	90	89	2,450	90	90	3,195	91	87	2,119	91	92	3,772	92	89
1969	6,256	2,564	93	99	2,814	93	99	3,692	93	99	2,302	96	94	4,137	95	94
1970	6,806	2,774	100	100	3,047	100	100	4,032	100	100	2,500	100	100	4,572	100	100
1971	7,825	3,116	102	111	3,395	102	110	4,708	108	110	2,572	98	106	5,003	101	110
1972	8,257	3,316	104	116	3,638	105	115	4,941	116	110	2,963	100	119	6,093	105	131
1973	10,455	4,531	120	137	4,965	122	135	5,924	126	122	4,276	126	137	8,908	127	159
1974	13,685	6,146	163	141	6,722	165	139	7,538	150	130	6,373	180	148	11,928	167	166
Seasonally adjusted (value and volume indices only are adjusted)																
1975 1st qtr.	3,905	1,591	186	128	1,727	186	126	2,333	174	138	1,547	191	134	3,085	183	157
2nd qtr.	3,963	1,538	192	120	1,673	192	119	2,442	184	135	1,446	190	128	2,970	188	149
3rd qtr.	4,079	1,517	196	115	1,651	196	114	2,555	197	134	1,522	192	131	3,358	194	158
4th qtr.	4,518	1,802	202	131	1,958	202	130	2,686	207	133	16,35	197	137	3,392	201	157

NOTE: Value figures prior to 1949, and index numbers prior to 1954, are not available on a comparable basis.

* Revised.

Employment in the third quarter of 1975

	Thousands
North East	32
North West	20
Rest of Great Britain	36
Total	88

Separate figures for shipbuilding alone or for Merseyside are not available.

'What was the gross tonnage of merchant shipping launched as a percentage of the United Kingdom total in the North East and Merseyside, respectively, in 1974 and 1975, respectively?' asked Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Huckfield said: 'Regional statistics of the gross tonnage of merchant shipping launched is not readily available. The following information relates to the gross tonnage of completions.'

	Percentage of total for UK	
	1974	1975
North East England	50	54
North West England	1	2

Separate information for Merseyside is not available.

Aircraft landings at Heathrow

Mr. Barney Hayhoe (Hounslow, Brentford and Isleworth) asked: how many aircraft landings and takeoffs have taken place at Heathrow airport at night during each of last four weeks for which figures are available.

Mr. Clinton Davis gave the information as follows:

	Runway							
	28R		28L		10R		10L	
Week	Take-off	Landing	Take-off	Landing	Take-off	Landing	Take-off	Landing
29 April-5 May	—	3	1	25	1	10	—	—
6-12 May	1	6	1	9	—	13	—	2
13-19 May	—	—	1	31	—	1	—	1
20-26 May	2	—	2	24	2	5	—	—

Mr. Hayhoe also asked if the instrument landing system in use at Heathrow airport and the action being taken to improve matters are considered satisfactory.

Mr. Clinton Davis replied: 'I am advised that the system is up to standard technically, but in conjunction with the Civil Aviation Authority, we are currently considering ways of ensuring that the system can be so operated so as to reduce disruption of the alternation landing system.'

Small Firms Information Centres

Centre	Telephone	Freefone area	Freefone	Telex
Birmingham	021-643 3344	West Midlands	4054	337919
Bristol	294546	South West	9910	449650
Cardiff	396116	Wales	1208	497515
Glasgow	041-248 6014	Scotland	846	779334
Leeds	445151	Yorks/Humberside	5361	557687
London	01-828 2384	London & South East	2079	917920
Luton	29215	Eastern	372	826115
Manchester	061-832 5282	North Western	6005	667952
Newcastle	25353	Northern	529	537429
Nottingham	49791	East Midlands	4062	377313

Social Trends No. 6

Social Statistics are a vast topic; analysing the data available from the numerous sources can prove a formidable task. *Social Trends*, compiled by a team at the CSO from data supplied by all Government departments, is well established as the source of a comprehensive collection of major social and environmental statistics.

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Technology

Ship handling and manoeuvring – new project reaches completion

by Jennifer Clarke

'Starboard 20.'
'Starboard 20 Sir.'
'Steer 050.'
'Steer 050.'

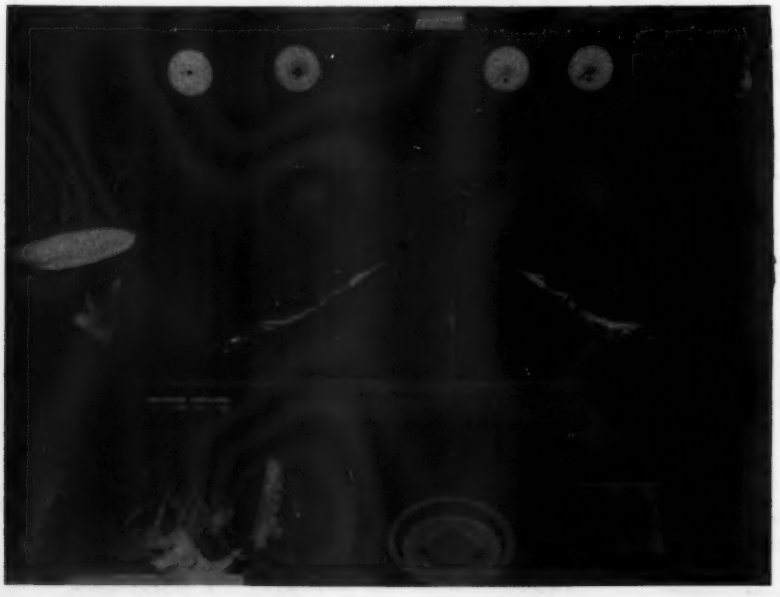
The helmsman's hands flicker in the darkness as he puts the wheel over, and the new course comes up in 3-in figures on an overhead display. 'Slow ahead both.' The captain studies the radar. As the deck officer pulls back on the engine control it clangs, and the steady vibration slows down perceptibly.

'Steady on 050, Sir.' Through the bridge window can be seen the bow-wave, closing in towards the ship's side with the drop in speed. To port, a line of red lights and to starboard, white ones – the channel marker buoys. The lights of another ship are visible on the starboard bow. 'I've got her on the radar,' says the captain. 'What's she doing?'

'She's coming towards us; her red light's quite clear now, sir. We are just coming up to No. 3 buoy, group flashing three every 10.'

'Stop both.'

'Slow astern both.' The commands are given as the ship enters harbour. Which harbour? Milford Haven? Thameshaven? or Bantry Bay? We are in fact in the middle of a field in Hersham, in the new Decca Ship Simulator, witnessing a very realistic training exercise.



Part of the bridge showing view through the bridge window (own ship's wash, lights of buoys, ship to starboard). Mounted above the bridge window are such instruments as heading repeater, log, rate of turn indicator, engine rpm and clock. Among the instruments on the deckhead is a rudder indicator. In the foreground is an anti-collision radar, autopilot, engine control and echo-sounder. The chart table is out of the picture.

Nigel Broackes, chairman of the Ship and Marine Technology Requirements Board addressed a conference at Decca, Hersham, last week to mark the completion of the Ship Simulator ordered by the Department of Industry. Developed at a cost to the government of £330,000, it is the first of its kind in the UK and includes features which are unique, even when compared with other more expensive models in other parts of the world.

It is built into two Portakabins, one containing the wheelhouse, the instructor's console (known as the radio room) from which the exercise is monitored, and the captain's cabin; the second houses the screen and projection system.

At present it is designed to simulate a 250,000 tonne VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier). The manoeuvring behaviour of the simulated vessel is governed by a computer mathematical model, developed jointly by Decca and the National Physical Laboratory Ship Division. Data on two other types of vessel will be provided within about three months. It is possible to cater for any ship from 500-500,000 tonnes providing the necessary data can be supplied for programming the computer.

Through the bridge window, in the forward bulkhead of the wheelhouse, can be seen a night-time view. Ahead stretches 600 ft of the 250,000 tonne VLCC, her deck and various fittings dim greys and greens. Up to 16 lights can be seen at one time, flashing or occulting according to its description on the chart, if representing a buoy, or other ships' navigation lights (two white and red or green) which indicate the direction in which they are travelling. Two other ships can be included in the programme, which makes it possible to carry out anti-collision exercises. If a 'collision' occurs, the instructor would press the 'freeze' button and stop the exercise for discussion. There is of course no damage to the simulator!

A typical bridge team would consist of three or four people; master and/or pilot, deck officer and helmsman. The instructor can set up a programme for artificial exercise areas or for real ones and can set up deliberate hazards and deliberate failures such as to engine or steering gear. The depth of water under the keel is taken into account, as it affects ships' handling characteristics, and tidal flow and weather conditions such as fog. In about six months

wind will be introduced as a factor to be reckoned with, particularly with reference to VLCCs. Those inexperienced in handling big ships might be surprised to find how much such vessels can be affected by the wind, particularly when unladen.

As a typical distraction the instructor can call up on the radio telephone at a critical point, pretending to be an Arab port radio officer, or the ship's steward.

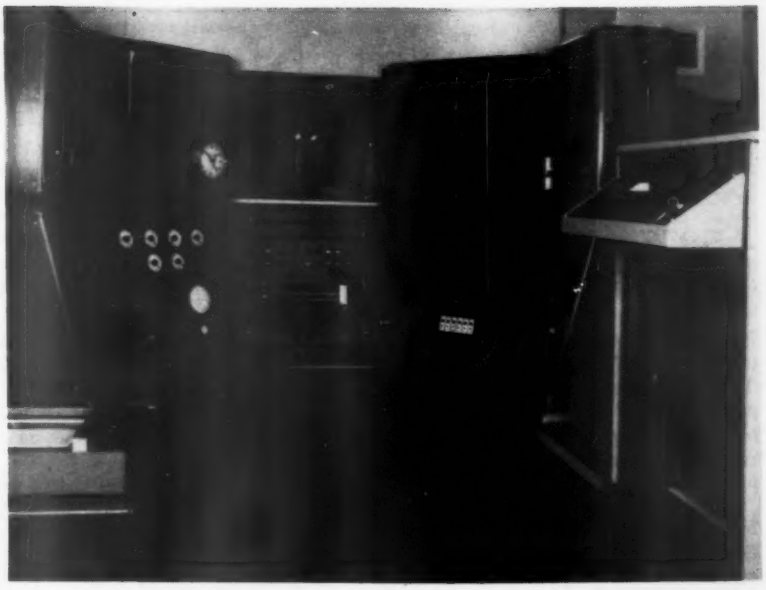
The general design is based on extensive trials with experienced masters and pilots. It was as a result of their comments, for instance, that to create the right atmosphere it was decided to include the faint distant hollow clanging of a bell buoy. Traditionally, masters have experience in deep water manoeuvres while pilots are more at home in shallower waters. This became evident during the trials. It is in fact harder to turn a ship in shallow water and requires a greater turning circle. Predictably, subsequent analysis showed that masters and pilots were both more adept in the depths to which they were most accustomed.

One great advantage of the simulator, which is expected to appeal to the principle nautical schools at home and overseas, is that it gives an opportunity for training in bridge teamwork; as a supplement to real sea-going practice. It makes it possible to carry out exercises under repeatable and hazardous conditions, in a way which would involve too much risk at sea.

R. F. (Pat) Hansford, of Decca Radar's Research Division at Hersham, who is in charge of the project, studied various techniques before settling for a system of back projection involving 20 projectors driven by computer. The "radio office" contains the computer, interfaces, control and monitor equipment, video map generator, etc. The instructor can make up his own chart and enter it in, without any special knowledge of computing. Each exercise is automatically recorded on a track plot for subsequent analysis, together with speed, engine revolutions, rudder angle, rate of turn, drift angle and heading.

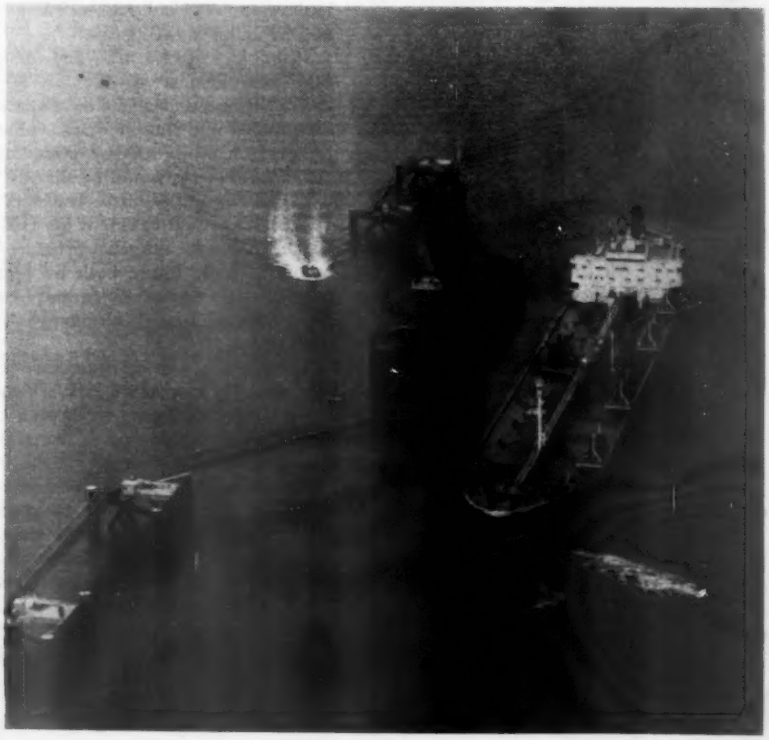
Costing about £1,500 a year to run, the Decca ship simulator does offer extreme flexibility of exercise, area and type. Compared with other models in Europe it is the only one to provide other ships, so allowing anti-collision exercises and greater general realism.

The technique of using night-time simulation with computer controlled projectors has not been used before for ship simulators and it has the advantage of providing extreme realism without excessive cost.



The "radio room" from which the Instructor controls the exercise. This is normally programmed in advance (see casette acceptance slot to left of chair), but he can introduce extra other ships, fog, sound signals, buoys and so on, at will. He can also create diversions by telephone, v.h.f., engine alarm system. The instrument at right produces a track chart of the exercise.

Below : afloat immediately after merging from dry dock at South Shields in north-east England, a new drillship which has been completely redesigned and refitted. Originally built as a bulk carrier in 1958, the new drillship is initially under contract to the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation of India for work in the Bombay High Field. Right : The first export cargo of more than 50,000 tonnes of North Sea crude oil leaving the Hound Point tanker terminal in the Firth of Forth aboard the tanker 'British Dragoon'.



Technology News

Energy R & D discussion document published

Priority for energy conservation, coal and nuclear technologies is recommended in a discussion document* on energy research and development in the United Kingdom, issued by the Secretary of State for Energy's Advisory Council on Research and Development for Fuel and Power (Acord).

The document recommends these priorities because, it says, 'these technologies will be essential to us over a wide range of future conditions'. The purpose of the document is to provide a framework for the planning of UK R & D in energy technologies. It is seen as the first step towards the formulation of a national energy R & D strategy.

In a foreword, Dr. Walter Marshall, chairman of Acord, says that a detailed strategy can be evolved only through discussion among the public and private energy industries and energy consumers. He offers Acord's ideas in the document for constructive public comment.

The objective of the studies and discussions will be to formulate a strategy sufficiently robust to cope with the uncertainty of the future.

The framework put forward in the document:

identifies those technologies which would keep open options over a wide range of possible future conditions with the objective, if possible, of obtaining broad national consent to the importance of pursuing them;

gives priority to technologies which ensure that the UK derives maximum advantage from its indigenous reserves of North Sea oil and gas;

gives priority to conservation, coal and nuclear technologies because they will be essential to the UK over a wide range of possible future conditions;

seeks to use the breathing space given to the UK by North Sea oil and gas to assess thoroughly the alternative technologies and to invest in developing those selected for opening valuable options at reasonable cost; and

seeks every opportunity for international collaboration because the problems are international.

Chairman's foreword

In his foreword, Dr. Marshall says that the UK has a favourable energy outlook compared with most of its major trading partners. But there is a consensus that, perhaps not until the turn of the century, there will be a widening gap between overall demand for energy and indigenous supplies of fossil fuels – ie coal, oil and gas.

It is therefore important to identify the contribution that energy R & D can make to bridge the gap.

Dr. Marshall says most energy supply and demand decisions that will affect the UK in the short term have been taken and announced to Parliament. Those which will influence the next 10 years are primarily investment decisions in the nationalised industries with no great implications for R & D. But for the longer term most decisions on energy matters require a technological input and possibly considerable R & D programmes.

The dominant aim of the UK's R & D strategy must be to open technological options and a subsidiary aim to do as much as possible in co-operation with other countries.

Energy supply and demand

The document says that if the growth in primary energy consumption were to return to the average annual rate of nearly 2 per cent over the last 20 years consumption would double by 2010 AD. North Sea oil and gas should bring important economic benefits but their production seems likely to peak 'all too soon', possibly before the end of the 1980s. Not long after that a gap would begin to develop between UK total energy demand and its indigenous supplies.

If that gap increased beyond the contribution from nuclear power, the UK would again become dependent on imported fossil fuels and would then be more vulnerable to increases in world energy prices at a time when those prices would be sharply rising as world oil resources became depleted.

'This is another reason for the UK to make sensible use of its indigenous resources and to prepare for the future both by becoming a more efficient user of energy and by developing additional sources of energy', the document says.

There is no way of being sure when the medium-term period of UK self-sufficiency will end, but it is prudent to plan UK R & D on the assumption of earlier rather than later need.

The document adds:

'There is a danger that the prospect of energy self-sufficiency, albeit for a limited period, could cause complacency ... This would be a grave mistake, because the only major difference between the UK and countries less favourably endowed with indigenous fuel will be that, for a time, our balance of payments position will be eased.

'We must ... take advantage of this breathing space given to us by North Sea oil to improve the efficiency of energy use and to develop, prove and establish those technologies upon which this country's future is likely to depend'.

The document examines energy supply and demand against the background of losses of 60 per cent of primary energy on its way to the consumer – 30 per cent in conversion and distribution and a further 30 per cent at the point of use.

Supply

It says that coal has the potential to supply all UK energy needs for several centuries. Without investment, however, the UK cannot be prepared for a future in which the demand for coal will be as large or larger than it is today. It would not therefore be appropriate to judge investment with long lead times against the short-term depression in coal's traditional markets.

North Sea reserves of oil might rise as exploration continues, designated areas are expanded and recoverability (now estimated to be only between 30-45 per cent of the oil in place) improves.

World oil production is expected to reach its peak in 2000 AD – a decade later than the North Sea's peak. But eventually the supply of oil for chemical feedstocks will be a world-wide problem, as will the supply of motor fuels, unless other energy sources for transport are found.

The world-wide decline of oil supplies will probably make it essential to generate substitute natural gas from coal and to turn to coal as a supplementary source of transport fuels, organic chemicals and other premium hydrocarbons. These applications could eventually make coal too valuable to burn for bulk heat raising purposes.

After the turn of the century, the gas industry will be seeking alternative supplies either by manufacturing substitute natural gas or by importing liquefied natural gas.

Unless there is much more prospecting, world reserves of reasonably priced uranium (all of which the UK has to import) could be seriously restricted before 1990. It is therefore important to make the best possible use of uranium. It can be made to meet demand for centuries by the introduction of the fast reactor which liberates 60 times as much energy from uranium as thermal reactors.

The amount of depleted uranium in or discharged from thermal reactors already in the UK could be equivalent to some 20,000 million tons of coal – nearly half the country's estimated recoverable reserves of coal – if used in fast reactors.

The document says that the economic and environmental impacts of alternative sources of energy from tapping the energy of the sun

* Energy R & D in the United Kingdom. A discussion document prepared for the Advisory Council on Research and Development for Fuel and Power to be published soon in the Department of Energy's Papers series.

and moon – solar, wind, wave and tidal power – need to be fully assessed because they could make a useful contribution to energy supply as conventional energy prices rise.

Energy from waste materials has very limited potential; that from geothermal power is much greater but there are serious geological and technical problems; and, while fusion power cannot contribute to the UK's energy resources over the next 50 years, its energy potential is so great that development of the technology must continue.

Conversion and distribution

The document says that there is little prospect for improving the efficiency with which primary energy is converted to electricity from the current 30-35 per cent to much over 50 per cent.

The conversion of existing power stations to combined heat and power schemes (CHP) is unlikely to give significant immediate benefits. But long term the incorporation of combined heat and power plant in large district heating schemes could be much more attractive.

There is a 'well established case' for installing CHP schemes in industrial establishments with large, steady demand for both heat and electricity. There are thought to be about 300 private CHP schemes already in the UK meeting 20 per cent of industry's demand for electricity, but there is scope for the extension of CHP into the small industrial and large commercial sectors.

Energy use

The efficiency with which energy is used in buildings (mainly for space and water heating) could be improved by the application of existing technology; heating efficiencies could be raised from a present average of 40 per cent to perhaps 60 per cent.

Much of the potential savings could be realised in 15-25 years through changes in regulations and improvements in equipment and specifications. But improving efficiency with which energy is used is only one way of saving energy. It is equally important to reduce the rate of increase in the need for it.

This is particularly effective because on average 2½ units of primary energy are saved in saving one unit of energy consumed at the point of use.

Thermal insulation of existing buildings, better energy housekeeping and management, using less material or materials with a lower energy content and switching modes of transport can reduce the need for energy. Longer term energy savings of 50 per cent or more could be achieved by designing buildings with a lower energy requirement while still allowing for a better lifestyle.

Waste management data

Subscribers to Harwell's Wastes Management Information Bureau will now find it easier to obtain literature searches. This means that organisations will be able to sift quickly through one of the world's most comprehensive computerised databanks of published information and more readily identify the widest selection of literature relevant to their particular needs or problems.

The system currently contains over 7,000 journal articles, books, reports, patents, conference proceedings and items of trade literature dealing with all aspects of waste management and environmental hazards. It is being continuously updated at the rate of about 2,500 items a year.

Up till now references have been stored in the computer and accessed using 'key words'. The improvement in the information retrieval service has been achieved by writing new computer sub-routines that enable an enquirer to search the full databank by means of a free-text search facility. In this way specific words or phrases in the descriptive text can be selected and correlated using 'and', 'or' and 'not' options.

Harwell hopes that subscribers (£30 per annum in UK) will be encouraged by the changes to make fuller use of it. Each subscriber is entitled to four searches each year without additional charge but more frequent searches can be arranged at cost. Subscribers also receive a monthly bulletin which provides a current awareness service that summarises the latest additions to the world's published literature on wastes management.

Fuller details on the subscription service and the new computer search facility can be obtained from : Miss Madeleine Lund, Waste Research Unit Hazardous Materials Service, Building 151, Harwell, Oxfordshire. Abingdon (0235) 24141, ext. 2121.

Asbestos identification service

Sale of 'blue asbestos' or crocidolite is now prohibited but there is a possibility that certain products, in particular pipe lagging or thermal insulation which were manufactured or installed some time ago, may contain a proportion of the blue asbestos.

The Shirley Institute of Manchester are now providing a service for the analysis and identification of asbestos. Samples suspected can be sent to the Institute for analysis, or alternatively a member of the staff can be sent to the factory to collect suitable samples. Details and estimates of cost can be obtained from W. T. Cowhig, Shirley Institute, tel. 061-445 8141.

Sprayed asbestos – guidance on precautions

Practical advice on tackling the potential risk to health from coatings of asbestos sprayed in buildings, for protection against fire, heat loss, or condensation, is given in a publication issued recently by the Health and Safety Executive.

The Technical Data Note* also gives guidance on where sprayed asbestos is to be found and what it looks like; where a risk to health may be involved; and the precautions which should be taken if coatings are to be retained or removed.

Local Factory Inspectors will be issuing copies of the Note to owners and occupiers of premises known to incorporate sprayed asbestos coatings, and to contractors. Other interested organisations, including local authorities and fire authorities who are likely to encounter sprayed asbestos coatings, will also receive the Note. It is also intended to alert, for example, architects and workpeople to the potential dangers.

Permanent warnings, the Note says, should be posted where workpeople are likely to come into contact with dust from sprayed asbestos coatings.

The local H.M. Inspector of Factories should be consulted where there is any doubt about the risk of danger to health; he will supply the names of organisations who can take dust samples.

The Department of the Environment Building Regulations Professional Division in England and Wales, or the Scottish Development Department in Scotland will be willing as far as possible to give advice in relation to the building regulations on alternative materials to asbestos and remedial treatments.

* Technical Data Note 52. 'Health hazards from Sprayed Asbestos Coatings in Buildings', is available free from local offices of HM Factory Inspectorate or the Public Inquiry Point, Health and Safety Executive, Baynards House, Chepstow Place, Westbourne Grove, London W2 4TF.

British timekeeper is world beater

Inventor Peter Loose (right) discusses his quartz digital chronometer with world agent Ernest Rayment. A newcomer to the export market the timekeeper is believed to be the world's first commercial quartz digital chronometer which will maintain accuracy to within one minute even after 10 years' continuous running. It is especially suitable for shipping, aircraft and similar industries where absolute time is of primary importance. The new chronometer is the product of a four-man team who set up a small manufacturing company – European Electronic Systems Ltd. – on the West Station Industrial Estate, Maldon, Essex. Peter Loose is the Technological Director. Brown and Perring Ltd., 7 St. Botolph Street, London EC3A 7DT are responsible for the marketing.

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Publications

Statistics Europe: Sources for Social, Economic and Market Research, by Joan Harvey. (467 pages. CBD Research Ltd., Beckenham, Kent. 3rd edition 1976. £15.00. ISBN 900246 18 9). The previous editions of this directory, the first of which was reviewed in the then *Board of Trade Journal*, 9 February 1968, proved valuable not only to market researchers but also to others requiring current information on sources of statistics. The author, Senior Lecturer at the School of Librarianship Loughborough College of Technology, has broadened the scope of this edition in order to increase its acceptability to those engaged in the wider aspects of economic and social research. A set of introductory notes opens the volume, followed by a list of the countries covered and a guide to abbreviations and symbols. The main body of the text is devoted to the country references beginning with a section on Europe in general and continuing with an alphabetical arrangement by country. The initial item in each of these main entries contains information on the appropriate national statistical office and this is followed by details of other important organisations which collect and publish statistical material. The principal libraries which house accessible collections of statistics are then itemised and this is supplemented by a list of libraries and information services in other (mainly English speaking) countries where some of the relevant statistical publications may be consulted. Still under country designations, the next items comprise the major bibliographies of statistics and the more important statistical publications. The latter are arranged under the following standard headings; general; production; external trade; internal distribution and services trades; population; social; finance; transport and communications.

The citations for each publication contain full bibliographical details as well as extensive notes on coverage, frequency, contents and any other features which make the item noteworthy. Titles are cited in the language of origin, and in the Cyrillic alphabet in the case of the USSR, with an English translation immediately following. Three indexes conclude the directory: an index of organisations; title index and subject index. The last item is a new feature of this third edition and has been included because of the many more diverse and specialised sources which have been incorporated into the text. The geographical coverage has been extended to include Cyprus and Gibralter, bringing the number of countries covered to thirty-five. The total number of entries now amounts to one thousand, four hundred and forty one – more than double the figure included in the second edition.

Guide to Government Department and other libraries and information bureaux, 1976. The British Library: Science Reference Library (72 pages. Available from The British Library: Science Reference Library, Holborn Branch, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Buildings, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1AW *and* Bayswater Branch, 10 Porchester Gardens, Queensway, London W2 4DE. 1976. £3.00. ISBN 0 9029 14 23 5). Although this is the 22nd edition of what used to be known as the *Pink Book*, this is the first to be made freely available to the public. The *Guide* consists of some 700 entries arranged in 30 specific subject groups. The contents of of the directory reflect its origins: it was first issued in 1948 as a handlist for Government departmental librarians and, as a consequence of this, the compilation is mainly orientated towards the London area in location and the sciences, social as well as physical, in scope. The entries have been compiled from information supplied by the institutions themselves and consist, in most cases, of the following items: full telegraphic and postal addresses; stock and subject coverage, availability; times of access; publications, senior staff designations and details of other services. Larger institutions are subdivided into their constituent bodies, thus making each entry as specific as possible. Full cross references are given, both in the text and in the extensive index which concludes the publication. Regular revisions of the *Guide* are planned for the future and the British Library would be pleased to hear from any institutions wishing to be included in subsequent editions. A useful addition to the British Library's *Guide* is the Department of Industry's *Technical Services for Industry*, reviewed in *Trade and Industry* on the 2 May 1975. It is available free from the Department and its regional offices.

A Study of the Evolution of Concentration in the United Kingdom Textile Industry. Commission of the European Communities. (226 pages. Available from HMSO. 1976. £3.47. ISBN 0 11 935431 4). This volume is one of a series of industry studies on the growth and development of industrial concentration in the EEC member states. The reports have been compiled by national institutes and experts: in this particular case the Commission has engaged the Cranfield School of Management to study the programme in question. The central theme of this study is the effect on competition of concentration in three sub-sections of the textile industry; the three being cotton, woollen and other knitted goods. The first section is a general survey of methodology and objectives together with a summary of findings. Section two examines trends in the textile industry since 1963 with particular emphasis being given to United Kingdom demand, external trade, prices and productivity and financial developments. The following section is an attempt to identify the factors which influence the structure of the industry. Section four comprises a statistical study of the development of concentration from 1963 to 1973 and includes an extensive examination of the methodology involved. In the next section the report explores, in some detail, the markets for various product groups, including both intermediate goods (spun yarns) and end products (manufactured items). Finally, the report relates the findings of the statistical analysis to the wider competitive situation described in sections two, three and five. Considerable additional information is given in the seven appendices which supplement the text of this study. The headings under which this material is presented are: list of enterprises showing textile and non-textile activities (UK and world wide); tables of concentration; estimates of total sub-sector sales; tests for correlation of ranking; additional company information; analysis of major textile companies, and finally, extracts from the 1963 and 1968 *Censuses of Production*, showing an analysis of enterprises.

Social aspects of innovation and industrial technology: a survey of research, by Lewis F. Abbott. Department of Industry: CFIT Paper No. 1. (130 pages. HMSO. 1976. £1.75. ISBN 0 11 511681 8). This survey was sponsored by the Working Party on Social Aspects of Industrial Technologies of the Department of Industry's Committee for Industrial Technologies (CFIT). The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to survey and publicise current and classic literature relating to the social aspects of innovation and industrial technologies. Preceding the literature listing is a short introduction comprising some observations on the sociology of the subjects concerned. The items in the literature survey are grouped into five sections: general, introductory and classic studies; facilitation of innovation; obstacles to innovation; technology and work; technology and management. A subject index completes the volume. Two features of this work are worth noting. The first is the amount of material presented in what is a relatively new field; 356 entries are given, drawn from both monographic and periodical literature. The second is the full and authoritative annotations which not only describe and evaluate the item concerned but also extend the introductory essay into the more specialised areas explored in the literature.

New directions in international trade and development policies. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (35 pages. Available from HMSO. 1976. £1.04. ISBN 0 11 904232 0). This report, by the Secretary-General of Unctad, is both a mid-term review and an appraisal of the implementation of the International Development Strategy of the United Nations. Its purpose is to analyse the effect on both development in general and developing nations in particular of the recent changes in the global economic situation. These changes are examined in some detail. The implications of the present situation for international trade and development are discussed together with recommendations for changes in development strategy. This publication should therefore be of use to all those concerned with trade, development and the international economic outlook.

BOTB News

Birthday honours for services to export

The following awards were cited 'for services to export' in the Birthday Honours List.

Knights Bachelor

William Sydney Albert Atkins, CBE.
Chairman, W. S. Atkins Group.

Robert McCallum Douglas, OBE.
Chairman, Robert M. Douglas Holdings Ltd.

Rowland Sydney Wright, CBE.
Chairman, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

CBE

William Malpas Clarke.
Director-General and Deputy Chairman, Committee on Invisible Exports.

Edward John William Hellmuth.
For services to the European Trade Committee and to Export.

Reginald George Hoare.
Lately Chairman, Pharmaceuticals Division, Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd.

John Hardcastle Huntridge.
Director, Marshall of Cambridge (Engineering) Ltd.

Duncan McDonald.
Chairman, Bruce Peebles Industries and Chief Executive, Reyrolle Parsons Ltd.

Matthew Neil.
Chief Executive, Glasgow Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures.

Albert Norton.
Deputy Chairman, Rowntree Mackintosh Ltd.

OBE

Henry Colin Davis.
Director, Oral Hygiene Service.

Arthur James Day, BEM.
Director-General, Institute of Export.

George Drexler.
Chairman, Ofrex Group Ltd.

Alexander Lindsay Stewart.
Managing Director, Ethicon Ltd., Edinburgh.

John Patteson Strong.
Chairman, Strong and Fisher (Holdings) Ltd.

MBE

William Panahoity Air.
Secretary and Chief Executive, Leicester and District Hosiery Manufacturers' Association Ltd.

Percy Glazer.
Managing Director, Lewis and Peat (Rubber) Ltd.

Arthur Charles Moore.
Chief Estimator, Marconi Space Defence Systems.

Frederick Leslie Swain.
Service Manager, Westland Helicopters Ltd.

Stephen Randolph Wills.
Executive Secretary, British Overseas Trade Group for Israel.

New export training kit from Sitpro

'First Steps in Exporting' is the title of a new training kit from Sitpro which is designed to familiarise students with the basic procedures and terminology used in exporting. The kit, retailing at £65, is available direct from Sitpro and a demonstration will be held on 23 June to show the content, including audio/visual aids, and the inherent flexibility of this type of training material.

The kit is complete and self-contained comprising: an instructor's manual, four tape slide presentations, each of approximately 10 minutes duration covering the forwarding agent, terms of delivery, the documentation process and financing an export deal, 40 back-up slides and one set of master handouts.

The course covers why and how we export, an introduction to the export office, handling an export inquiry, transportation documents, and an outline of methods of securing payment. A simulation exercise (consisting of a playing board, cards, models and action sheets) additional to the kit involves the student in the physical movement of goods through the various trade barriers by the presentation of the appropriate documentation. This exercise has incomparable value both in demanding student participation and in enabling an evaluation of the course to be carried out.

The flexibility of this package permits the integration of subsequent changes of procedure into the training routine. The basic kit can also be used internationally by translation where necessary.

This kit is the first of a series that Sitpro intends to produce to help improve the standard of the specialised education required by those engaged in international trade.

These teaching aids are being developed for the assistance of experienced educators presenting lectures and seminars, and others such as the export office manager who, although not a professional educator, is often called on to speak at courses and seminars and has limited time available to prepare material.

'Plan for Coal' seminar in the United States

The Association of British Mining Equipment Exporters, in conjunction with the BOTB, is planning an outward mission and series of seminars in the United States this September.

Specially invited audiences will be attending seminars in Pittsburgh, Beckley and Salt Lake City when members of ABMEX will present a programme of papers on topics specifically chosen to deal in detail with modern coal mining practice and procedures.

Mr. John Mills, Board Member of the National Coal Board and immediate past President of the Institution of Mining Engineers, will introduce each seminar on the theme of 'Plan for Coal'. Illustrated papers will cover such subjects as power loading, conveying and transport, roadway driveages and drilling, roof supports, coal preparation, etc., and each paper will be followed by an open forum.

This outward mission follows a recent visit to the UK by representatives of the coal industry in the United States during which keen interest was shown in British mining equipment and coal technology particularly associated with the longwall system. It is also taken as an opportunity to follow-up the very considerable ABMEX activity associated with the introduction of British mining machinery and techniques to American coal mines.

The chairman of ABMEX, Mr. John Rogers, has stated that the delegates who attend these seminars will hear about British manufacturers' advanced technology associated with mining equipment both above and below ground. American coal mining engineers will also gain an appreciation of coal getting techniques and unified production control currently employed in an advanced coal mining complex. When asked why the American mining industry should be interested particularly in British equipment and technology, Mr. Rogers said that ABMEX members believed that they had a lot to offer in terms of experience and know-how particularly in relation to the longwall mining system of operation.

For further information please contact: The Secretaries, 301 Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2HN, tel. Sheffield 21071.

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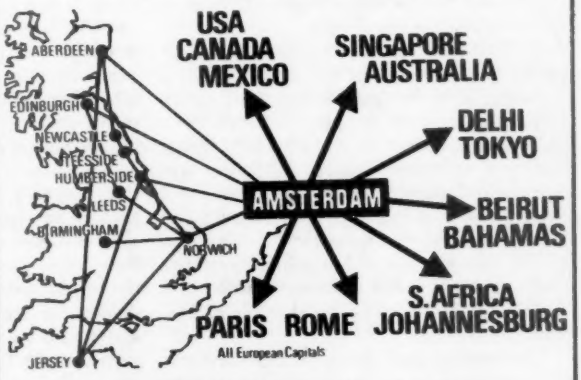

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Exhibitions and Fairs

Breakthrough for British hospital equipment at Nuremberg

From Charles Pattinson, Commercial Section, British Embassy, Munich: The 32nd Exhibition for Hospital Equipment (FAB) was held at the Nuremberg Fair Grounds from 18-21 May. The fair – claimed to be the largest of its kind in the world – attracted 514 exhibitors from 11 countries and completely filled all nine halls at the fair grounds with a gross area of 50,000m². Approximately 30,000 visitors from 28 countries found it worth their while to visit the fair and there was general praise all round of the high quality of these.

The show took place during a period of cost explosion within the German health service, resulting in German hospitals examining their spending very carefully. It was therefore all the more remarkable that all of the nine firms which took part in the joint venture organised by the British Hospital Export Council and the BOTB were able to report excellent results.

Perhaps the most satisfied exhibitor on the joint venture was Wellcome Medical Equipment who were able to announce that they had made their first impact on a major European market with an initial order for some £2½ million for their modular surgical units.

This undoubted success should not however overshadow the performance of other British exhibitors such as Aerosol Products Ltd., who had no less than 12 serious inquiries from agents anxious to sell their nebulizers and inhalers in Germany, a market in which very few previous sales have been made. At the end of the exhibition the company was more than confident that they would set up distribution arrangements covering the whole of Germany.

Another satisfied exhibitor was Vitalograph Ltd. who took orders for £8,500 for their spirometers and associated products, with good follow up business expected. In addition they were visited by no less than 287 dealers – a figure which far exeeded their expectations.

FAB will in future be held every two years and alternate with 'Interhospital' which is being held at Hanover next year from 7-10 June.

Britain has much to offer at Intertraffic

From A. E. Hazebroek, British Embassy, The Hague: The third International Traffic Engineering Exhibition (Intertraffic) which was held in Amsterdam from 18-21 May contained a substantial British joint venture. Eleven firms took part and they were situated in an attractive stand which, together with the products display, drew considerable interest from visitors.

Several joint venture stand-holders had products on show for the first time in Holland including inductive traffic information equipment, fibre-optic traffic signs, traffic counters and radar detectors to activate traffic lights. The general opinion among exhibitors was one of satisfaction; most of them received a good number of inquiries and, although no actual business was transacted – which was not to be expected with equipment of this kind – in quite a few instances results were anticipated in the follow-up after the exhibition.

The international aspect of the show was emphasised by the number of foreign people who came to visit the joint venture, including representatives from countries as far away as Indonesia.

Most of the British companies had representatives here already, and their main purpose in coming was to support the activities of their agents, and in this they succeeded quite well. In several instances it was expected that this would lead to more business in the next couple of years, while valuable market experience was also gained. One of the firms introducing a new kind of traffic control signs reported a very good response to these, and attendance at their stand was well over that in 1974. Somebody else, having appointed an agent just prior to the exhibition, got immediate results from this as he was kept busy almost constantly with visitors introduced to him through his representative. Another company which came to support the activities of its agent expected to double local sales through this within the next year.

The total number of participants was somewhat less than in 1974, but if anything this did not have a detrimental affect on the exhibition and on the prospects of the joint venture participants in particular.

The need for sophisticated traffic equipment may be illustrated by the growth of the Dutch carpark between the time of the first and of this exhibition by about a million units. The development in relevant equipment has been very rapid in recent years, and many examples of this were to be seen also in the joint venture. The exhibition has clearly shown that Britain has much to offer in modern traffic equipment systems, and that several of the products which were on show are foremost in their field. This state of affairs was underlined on the third day of the congress, held in conjunction with the exhibition, which was entirely devoted to experiences in Great Britain with traffic guidance in large centres. Five British experts read papers on this occasion.

It would not seem exaggerated to expect that the British presentation at Intertraffic '78 will be bigger and better still.

Growing market for carpets and household textiles

From W. P. Hartshorne, Vice-Consul (Commercial), Milan: Ten carpet and four household textile manufacturers, sponsored by the British Carpet Exports Association and the Household Textiles Association, respectively, made up this year's official British participation at STAR '76, the International Carpet and Furnishing Textile Fair held at Milan from 20-24 May. This was the seventh edition of a fair at which the UK has exhibited every year since its inception.

As in 1974, the exhibition opened on the heels of a government announcement of a 50 per cent import deposit scheme affecting all imported commodities save grain. But any fears that this might have an adverse effect on the UK's performance at the fair were proved groundless, the majority of exhibitors reporting that the level of serious inquiries had been above expectations, new customers had been acquired and orders taken.

At a truly international and expanding exhibition such as this, it was perhaps not surprising that a significant number of business inquiries came from visitors from third countries – not only in Western Europe but from places such as Saudia Arabia, Iran, Cyprus, Israel and the USA.

In Italy itself, the fittted carpet market in particular is still growing, and business opportunities for British manufacturers of carpets and household textiles – whose products are highly thought of – are encouraging. That British companies in these fields are aware of this, and are taking the market seriously, was confirmed by the fact that, once again, Britain represented the largest official foreign exhibit at STAR. It is to be hoped that still more British firms can be persauded to take part in this annual joint venture at an exhibition which is steadily growing in international stature.

Boom for pet supplies

From Mrs. R. S. Holmes, British Consulate-General, Frankfurt: The entire 13,800m² of exhibition space at the Wiesbaden Rhein-Main Halle were occupied by the 260 exhibitors from 14 countries who took part in the Wiesbaden Pet Trades Fair held from 14-16 May.

Exhibits ranged from pet food and toys, veterinary preparations and grooming aids, to bird cages, dog and cat homes and carriers, aquaria, shop fittings, display aids to trade literature. In addition, there were special displays of exotic birds and tropical fish. Concurrently with the trade fair, the International Pet Trade Organisation held its traditional meeting at Wiesbaden.

The contingent of 80 non-German exhibitors from 14 countries was led once again by a strong delegation from the United Kingdom, represented by 22 participants in a joint venture sponsored by the BOTB and the Pet Trades Association, and five independent firms. Also well represented were France with 14 firms, the Netherlands with 10 and Italy with nine exhibitors.

Increasing activity in Belgian manufacturing sector

From M. W. Hewitt, Commercial Department, British Embassy, Brussels: The fourth International Industrial Equipment Exhibition was held at the Palais du Centenaire, Brussels, from 20-26 May. Taking place at the same time at the Palais were the fifth International Packaging Exhibition (Propack) and the third International Automation Exhibition (Euromation).

386 exhibitors took part in the Industrial Equipment Exhibition in a net area of 22,700m². There were 37 foreign companies and two official participations, one Romanian and the other British.

Seventeen companies took part in the British joint venture sponsored by the BOTB and the Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce. As the exhibition covered such a wide range of equipment, it was divided into various sections which were concentrated in the different halls of the Palais. The British participants were in two halls, one devoted to engineering and machine tools and the other to hydraulic, pneumatic, weighing and lifting equipment, safety equipment and cleaning apparatus.

British exhibitors reported that the number of visitors was not as high as they would have wished but there was a good level of serious trade inquiries and many of these are expected to turn into firm orders. One company secured orders worth approximately BFr 2 million and negotiations are under way for more. The Warwick Pump and Engineering Co. Ltd. received a very satisfactory response from visitors and B and G Hydraulics Ltd. achieved one of their main reasons for participating when they made an agency agreement for Belgium. Many useful contacts were made and there is no doubt that the appearance of British principals at an exhibition of this sort was a great encouragement to their Belgian agents, leading in turn to future orders.

The Belgian economy is steadily pulling out of recession and the manufacturing sector is reporting increasing levels of activity. The Industrial Equipment Exhibition was well timed and the British participants took a valuable step towards increasing their share of the very rich Belgian market. The next exhibition in this series will take place in 1978.

British innovations intrigue US plant engineers

From Peter Manning-Smith, Consul (Commercial), Philadelphia: Ten British firms took part in a joint venture at the 27th American Plant Engineering and Maintenance Show Philadelphia, 17-20 May. This was sponsored by the London Chamber of Commerce in association with the BOTB. As a major US industrial trade event it attracted 670 exhibitors, 17,000 visitors and occupied four exhibition halls totalling 350,000 sq. ft.

This was not a show where large orders were taken but rather a meeting place for engineers and maintenance men to examine the latest and most sophisticated products available. The presentation by the 10 British firms which led to over 900 inquiries was described by one visitor as 'an intriguing assortment of goodies'; by another as a 'display classic with many products of interest'.

Useful boost to sales of photographic equipment in Japan

From E. J. Field, First Secretary (Commercial), Tokyo: For the second time this year members of the Association of British Manufacturers of Photographic, Sound and Audio Visual Equipment gathered at the British Export Marketing Centre in Tokyo to demonstrate their products. The exhibition which concentrated in some degree on processing and enlarging equipment, was held from 18-22 May.

Newcomers to the Japanese market dominated the show. Out of 21 exhibitors 13 were in Japan for the first time, seeking new outlets for their products. A high rate of success was achieved in finding agents and many exhibitors had signed agreements before they left Japan. Among them were Ademco, Marrutt Electrical, Pelling and Cross and Lee Electric (Lighting) Enterprises all of whom see a useful market for their products in Japan. Even more important, sample orders were placed and the goods will soon be displayed in Japan. Other companies such as HK Productions and Medical and Electrical Instrumentation established good contacts and are hopeful that agency agreements will be settled before long. The new colour printing chemicals for home use developed by Photo Technology aroused keen interest as such products are not available in Japan and representation should soon be established.

Among the established companies were several names well-known in the Japanese market. The De Vere enlargers have an established reputation and the exhibition enabled them to meet both new customers and their distributors. It also helped them to understand better the problems of after-sales service at long range. Other companies such as Bowens Sales and Service Ltd., Colour Rapid and Wilkinson Photographic Products found the exhibition a most useful promotional tool.

Through the marketing centre exhibitions a total of 25 companies in the photographic field have been introduced to the Japanese market this year. Even though the markets for some of these products may be specialised and relatively modest in cash terms, others have considerable potential. Overall these exhibitions should provide a useful boost to British sales of photographic equipment and film which last year totalled £4.3 million.

Disappointing attendance at Hoveringcraft and Hydrofoil Exhibition

From G. Hazebroek, British Embassy, The Hague: The success of the first exhibition at Brighton in 1974 had initiated the idea to hold the second International Hoveringcraft and Hydrofoil Exhibition on 17-20 May in Amsterdam with the object of attracting a wider audience. It is difficult to say why this idea did not seem to work as envisaged; but the number of visitors who passed the gates was rather disappointing. Possibly the less favourable economic climate still prevailing was one of the reasons.

In spite of this, several British firms displaying in the joint venture did obtain some reasonable results but others, through lack of sufficient attendance, did not do so well. One of our hovercraft builders was in the former category, by organising demonstration rides in two of their models on a nearby lake. They did this in co-operation with an oil company. Another participant received an inquiry worth many thousands of pounds which, if it materialises, will have made his coming to the exhibition worthwhile. A company engaged in hovercraft rentals considered they had developed a worthwhile potential business with one of the other continents. Some of our firms, which were established here already, attended mainly to look up existing business contacts, which they found useful.

One or two firms on the recreational hovercraft side had come to find distributors for their products, and succeeded in locating potential candidates; in one instance even for several countries outside Europe.

Those companies selling services, such as airlines and magazine and book publishers, came to do a public relations exercise and succeeded reasonably well in this.

A rather unique display was that of a joint venture firm which is trying to bring back sail as a source of energy for commercial shipping. Interest in this was shown by marine designers and scientific people.

Although these mild successes gave some colour to the exhibition, in its larger context it did not reach the audience which was hoped for, and which would seem to limit its usefulness and future possibilities. On the other hand, a conference held in conjunction with the exhibition was well attended, and British participation in reading papers was considerable.

Have you a good industrial news picture?

Pictures are published in *Trade and Industry* each week showing developments in British industry. If your company has introduced an interesting new product, if you have received an award, if you have developed a novel manufacturing process, if you have produced the biggest or smallest or heaviest or (you feel) the best designed product, you are welcome to send us a photograph with a short news story. Contributions should be sent promptly – while the subject is still newsworthy – to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Ponies and ploughs in demand at Munich

From C. Pattinson, Commercial Section, British Embassy, Munich: The 'Deutsche Landwirts-gesellschaft' (DLG) presented their 54th International Agricultural Fair in Munich from 21-27 May.

The exhibition not only filled completely all the halls and outside space available at the Munich fair grounds with a total gross area of 105,000m² but also occupied a similar area on the open air site just below the fair grounds known as the 'Theresienwiese' the home of Munich's annual beer festival the 'Oktoberfest'. In addition a further 20,000m² were devoted to the livestock show.

A total of 300,000 visitors from Germany and 74 other countries came to the fair, the majority from West Europe. Of the grand total of 1,087 direct exhibitors (plus 449 represented on other stands) 212 (plus 207 on other stands) were from abroad which represents an impressive proportion of 27 per cent. The UK was well represented with a total of 30 firms which among the foreign contingent represented joint second place with France behind Denmark with 35 firms. In addition a further 26 UK firms were represented on their agent's stands.

Of these 30 firms, 21 were on two joint ventures sponsored by the BOTB. On an outside site were 15 firms organised in conjunction with the British Agricultural Export Council (BAEC) and the remaining six exhibited under the auspices of Agricultural Engineers Association (AEA).

'Unqualified success'

The BAEC group which was aimed almost entirely at equestrian circles reported an unqualified success as far as they were concerned with total orders taken at the show amounting to £141,500 with a further £440,000 of follow-up business expected. Typical for the success of the equestrian group was the National Pony Society who said that they could have sold 10 ponies if they had been able to bring them with them. As it was they not only sold the two ponies taken to the show within the first two days, but also the stalls and horse boxes occupied by them which had been supplied by other exhibitors.

Among the AEA group, Ransome Sims and Jefferies Ltd. who were having their first serious look at the German market took orders amounting to DM70,000 for their ploughs with good follow-up business expected. Wright Rain Ltd. were also very happy with the results of the show and confidently expect it to lead to business in the nature of £500,000. They were particularly pleased with the interest shown in their semi-automatic irrigator 'Touraine' which has only been on the market for two years.

All in all British exhibitors were more than happy with the results of the show and all planned to come back to the next one which is being held in Frankfurt from 28 April-5 May.

The Exhibition in Singapore was "the best show we've been to."

This was the expert opinion of Mr. Hugo Johnson, Exhibition Director, Offshore SEA Exhibition & Conference, February 1976.

Splendid hotels (10,000 rooms, banquet facilities)

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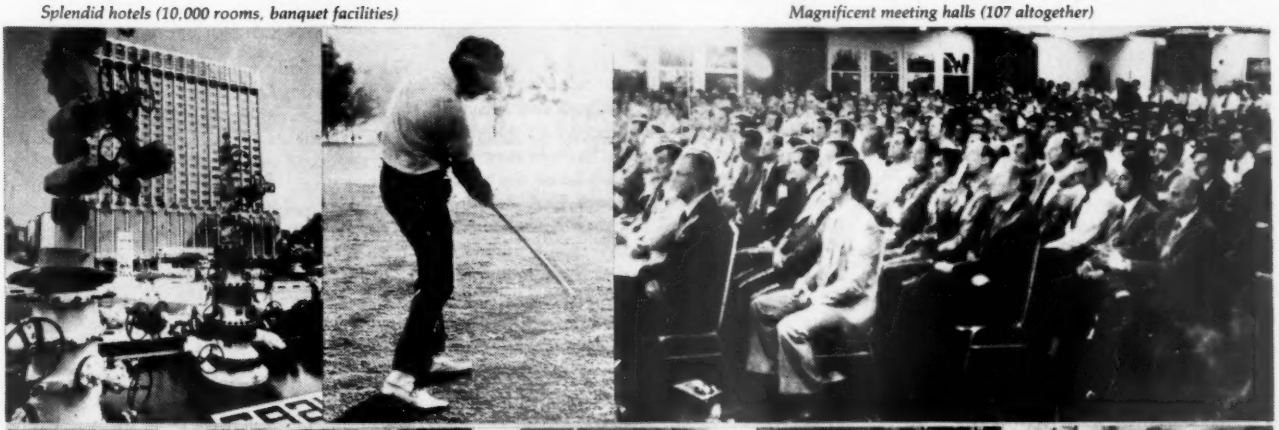


Glorious weather for post-conference activities and ladies' programmes

Fabulous food

The Offshore SEA Exhibition attracted a record 18,500 visitors and business transacted ran into millions of dollars. Already, 95% of the 1978 show (scheduled once again for Singapore) have been booked.

This tremendous success comes as no surprise when you discover that Singapore offers not only excellent convention facilities but also vast investment potential. Singapore is the business centre for South East Asia, a market of 200 million people.

If you want a share in the future of this fast growing region, make plans now to attend a meeting or, better still, hold your next convention/exhibition in dynamic Singapore.

Coming Exhibitions, 1976

Jul 21-25 : *SPOREX '76: 2nd International Exhibition Of Sports Equipment & Leisure Goods*

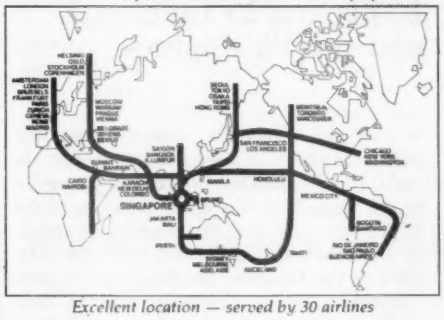
Aug 20-29 : *Singapore Fair 1976*

Sep 7-10 : *Computers For Industry Exhibition & Seminar*

Nov 9-12 : *Graphic Arts Equipment Exhibition & Seminar*

Nov 24-28 : *ENEX '76: International Exhibition Of Electrical & Electronic Equipment*

Dec 7-10 *Process Controls Instrumentation Exhibition & Seminar*



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Missions and Tours

Tayside's export year mission programme

The vital need to improve UK export figures, was stressed in a recent statement by Mr. T. A. C. Keay, president of the Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Outlining the Chamber's plans for the coming months, the president made the point that these indicated how seriously the chamber viewed the need to increase the UK's exports.

To date the chamber has sponsored successful export missions to Singapore and South East Asia in February and to Finland and Scandinavia in May.

In October the next mission will be to Australia and New Zealand and this will be followed in late November by a trade drive to Brazil and Venezuela. In February next year the Chamber will again be on the export trail to Singapore and South East Asia in a follow up exercise to this year's mission.

A visit to Japan is provisionally scheduled for June of next year and at the moment, the furthest advanced mission is to South Africa. This is one of the chamber's regular two-yearly trade missions and is scheduled for October 1977.

Dundee and Tayside fifth Australasia mission

Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry is sponsoring a trade mission to Australia and New Zealand from 24 October-14 November. This will be the Chamber's fifth mission to these countries since 1969.

The mission, under the BOTB Outward Mission Scheme, will include Melbourne, Sydney and Auckland in its itinerary but members will be able to visit other centres during the mission period.

The subsidy will be £550 for the two countries. Companies wishing to visit Australia only can do so, but the subsidy will be reduced to £500.

These missions are usually well supported and interested companies are requested to make early application for this mission.

For further information please contact Miss L. Dodds, Assistant Secretary, Export Promotion, Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chamber of Commerce Buildings, Panmure Street, Dundee DD1 1ED, tel. 22122, telex 76243.

Brazil trade drive

Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry is to sponsor an outward mission to Brazil from 20-27 November.

The mission, which will qualify for the support of the BOTB, will be based in Rio de Janeiro. Participating companies will have the option of visiting Venezuela after seven days in Brazil.

Further details from John Aitken, Dundee and Tayside Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chamber of Commerce Buildings, Panmure Street, Dundee DD1 1ED, tel. 0382 22122.

Engineering industries autumn visit to the west coast of Africa

The Engineering Industries Association is sponsoring another trade mission to visit Nigeria and Ghana from 13 to 28 November under the BOTB Outward Mission Scheme.

This mission follows the very successful mission of 12 months ago from which considerable business was derived. The mission will be based firstly in Lagos and then Accra, from whence individual delegates will be free to carry out their own individual business itineraries in the countries being visited. For further information contact: Veronica How, Engineering Industries Association, Equitable House, Lyon Road, Harrow, Middlesex, tel. 01-863 9188.

Exporting to Indonesia and the Philippines

A half-day conference dealing with the practical aspects of exporting to Indonesia and the Philippines has been organised jointly by the South-East Asia Advisory Group of the BOTB (SEAAG) and Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce and will take place at the Chamber on Thursday, 1 July.

Speakers at the conference will be Mr. A. E. I. Rae, Far East Director of Spicers International Ltd., and Alastair Goodlad of the Bowater Corporation, who is also a member of the South East Asia Advisory Group. A representative of a leading bank active in both markets will talk on the financial aspects of trading in the area, and a panel consisting of the main speakers plus representatives from the Department of Trade and the Export Credits Guarantee Department will answer questions.

Further information from Chris Harvey, Overseas Department, tel. 021-454 6171 ext. 207.

Opportunities in Japan

The Merseyside Chamber, conscious of the ever-increasing opportunities which Japan offers British exporters in a variety of products, particularly high quality consumer and technical goods, is organising a trade mission from 27 November-11 December which will spend seven nights in Tokyo (at the New Otani Hotel) and six nights in Osaka (at the Royal Hotel), and it is planned to travel from Tokyo to Osaka by the 'Bullet' express.

For the sake of economy, it is planned to make use of an inclusive tour fare, and in addition to the normal assistance which the BOTB, the COI and the Chamber itself will provide, those whose applications are accepted by the BOTB will be eligible for a Government grant of £450 to offset expenses.

Applications must be in by 28 July, and further information can be obtained from the Overseas Trade Secretary, Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 1 Old Hall Street, Liverpool L3 9HG, tel. 051-227 1234.

By Concorde to the USA

The Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre is organising an outward mission to the USA from 5-19 October for companies in the engineering industry. Mission members will travel by Concorde to Washington where they will be free to follow their own itineraries.

The mission will be supported by the British Overseas Trade Board under the Board's outward mission scheme.

Inquiries should be made to Mr. D. W. Perkins of the Birmingham Engineering and Building Centre, tel. 021-643 1914. Applications must be in by 25 June.

Mission to North America

Nineteen members of Birmingham Chamber of Industry and Commerce recently returned from a week's trade mission to Los Angeles.

This was the first of three missions organised by the North America Section of the Chamber this year; the other two are to Vancouver in September and St. Louis in October.

Last year, the Chamber sponsored four missions to the USA and Canada which resulted in nearly £700,000 worth of immediate orders and £6 million worth of serious inquiries for the 48 companies who were represented.

Applications to join the mission to Vancouver should be made before 30 June to Richard Grier, Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry, PO Box 360, Harborne Road, Birmingham B15 3DH, tel. 021-454 6171.

European Community News

EEC/Canada agreement – first of its kind

Representatives of the commission and Canada initialled the text of a framework agreement on commercial and economic co-operation on 2 June.

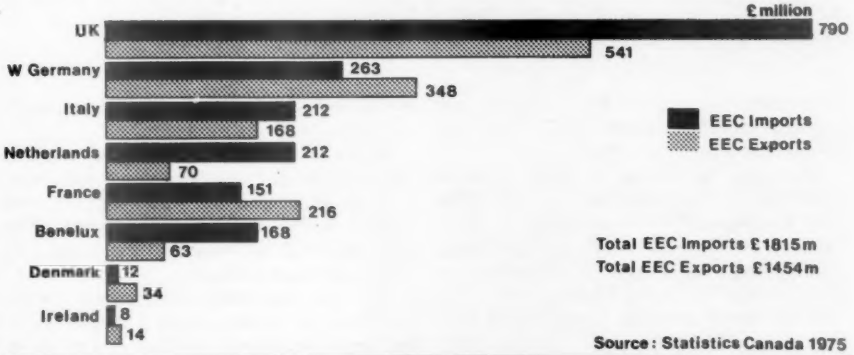
The community and Canada decided in principle to conclude an agreement in the autumn of 1974 when the Canadian Prime Minister visited Europe. The agreement will be the first of its kind between the community and a developed country.

The part on commercial co-operation will confirm that trade relations between the two countries will be conducted in accordance with the general and non-discriminatory principles of the Gatt. The part on economic co-operation will provide a framework in which co-operation between industries in the community and Canada can be promoted. This co-operation will be evolutionary, reflecting the development of industrial policies in both the community and Canada, and bilateral activity between member states and Canada can continue and be developed at the same time.

The agreement will establish a joint co-operation committee which will keep under review the commercial and economic co-operation activities envisaged under the agreement.

The UK has long established economic relations with Canada which is traditionally one of this country's major markets and among the countries which take the highest volume of British exports per head of the population. Other community countries are also developing their links with Canada rapidly and the existence of this agreement between Canada and the community as a whole should strengthen the developments.

EEC/Canada Trade 1975



EEC/Egypt agreement on textiles

A bilateral agreement on trade in textiles between Egypt and the EEC was initialled on 13 May 1976. This marked the successful conclusion of negotiations between Egypt and the community which began on 10 May 1976. The agreement will have effect from 1 January 1976 and will remain in force until 31 December 1977.

The agreement provides for the immediate suspension of all restrictions on imports into the community of Egyptian textiles. It also establishes a consultation clause applicable to all textiles covered by the Gatt multi-fibre arrangement. This consultation clause can be invoked by the community should the trade in any product covered by the agreement cause real risks of market disruption in the community, keeping in mind the equitable treatment of Egypt among suppliers of like products.

Import duties: changes operative from 1 July

An order providing for the implementation of European economic community obligations with regard to the structure of the tariff in the beef and veal cereals, rice and sugar products sectors comes into operation on 1 July. The order also provides for changes in the rates of import duty and conversion rates to be used for units of account (UAS) in the wine sector.

Amendments

The order amends the Import Duties (General) (No. 5) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1744) and makes consequential amendments to the Import Duties (Certain Mediterranean Countries) (Reductions and Exemptions) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 1978).

Copies of this Order, the Import Duties (General) (No. 3) Order 1976 (SI 1976 No. 912), will be available shortly from HMSO. Any inquiries about this notice should be directed to General Division, Room 310, Department of Trade, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ, tel. 01-215 5527.

EEC information

Free service for businessmen! The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is:
EEC Information Unit,
Department of Industry,
1 Victoria Street,
London SW1H 0ET.
Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Second environment programme aims to improve quality of life

A second environment programme, successor to the first environment programme launched in 1973, was proposed by the EEC commission in March. Its aim is to improve the quality of life and to protect the community's environment by combatting pollution and nuisances.

Although the main body of the new programme is devoted to the continuation and completion of the work provided for in the original programme but, as yet, incomplete, some new areas of action are envisaged and shifts of emphasis give increased importance to certain aspects of the work.

The other four main themes of the new programme are, firstly the need for preventive action in environmental care, secondly the need for rational management of the environment and its resources, thirdly the continuing importance of the work being undertaken on fresh and sea water and the new importance given to noise abatement; and fourthly the importance of the community's international activities in the environment field.

Like its predecessor, it is divided into two main parts concentrating on the reduction of pollution and nuisances, dealing separately with fresh and sea water, atmospheric pollution, noise, action specific to certain industrial sectors and energy production, and measures relating to certain products; and, on the rational management of the environment, space and natural resources covering such aspects as an ecological mapping system, the protection of flora and fauna, anti-waste measures and the depletion of natural resources.

To these are added sections on the general improvement of the environmental and action at international level. In the former category are, for example, proposals dealing with environmental impact assessment and dissemination of information. There is also in this section a chapter on economic aspects in which provision is made for studies of the costs and benefits of anti-pollution measures.

The scope of the programme is wider even than that of the original plan and suffers, in the UK view, from an absence of internal ordering of priorities. The action proposed in a number of areas such as the conservation of ancient monuments and the protection of flora and fauna appears to run the risk of duplicating work already being done in other international bodies like the council of Europe. The treatment of the economic aspects of environmental measures, segregated as it is from the rest of the programme, appears to indicate that these have not been taken properly into consideration in formulating the other sections.

The section relating to specific action in certain industrial sectors is extremely brief and confines itself to saying that work will continue on the tasks described in the first programme. The importance attached by the commission to work on the screening of chemical compounds for toxicity, biodegrad. ability and persistance is also of interest. Another area on which the commission put great stress is the subject of waste and the scope for recycling and re-use.

New fertilisers and feeding stuffs regulations

Regulations amending the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations 1973 were laid before Parliament on 10 June.

The new regulations*, which apply to Great Britain with effect from 1 October 1976, will implement the provisions of EEC Directives 74/63 and 76/14, which set maximum levels for certain undesirable substances and products in animal feeding stuffs. They will also implement the provisions of EEC Directives 71/250, 71/393, 72/199, 73/46, 74/203 and 76/372, which establish common analytical methods for feeding stuffs to be applied throughout the community. Some of these methods will replace those which are already specified in the existing regulations, and others will relate to substances for which an analytical method has not previously been specified.

At the same time the regulations will extend the existing labelling provisions for feeding stuffs by requiring that the name of any preservative used in a feeding stuff shall be declared (so implementing the provisions of Paragraph 2 of Article 7 of Directive 75/296) and specifying the information to be given when poultry waste is sold as a feeding stuff or is used as a feeding stuff ingredient. Additional information will also be required when permitted non-protein nitrogenous compounds are incorporated in compounds or feeding stuffs for ruminants.

Limits of variation will be set for the new declarations and new 'two-stage' tolerances will be introduced for trace elements and copper added to feed supplements. The tolerances will be related to the amount of these substances present.

The new regulations will provide metric substitutions, effective from 1 August 1976, for the imperial units specified in Part IV of the Agriculture Act 1970 and the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations 1973. Certain minor changes will also be made to the existing regulations, effective from 1 July 1976. These are mainly concerned with sampling but will not affect the practices or procedures.

Similar regulations will be issued shortly in Northern Ireland which will come into effect on the same dates.

Inquiries about the regulations should be addressed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Emergencies, Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Division, Eagle House, 90/96 Cannon Street, London EC4 6HT, or to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, 500 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 3AW. Inquiries about the Northern Ireland regulations should be addressed to the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 35B.

* The new regulations are the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Amendment) Regulations 1976 (SI 1976 No. 840). Copies can be obtained from HM Stationery Office or through booksellers, price 85p (by post 96p).

Outward processing relief

The article in *Trade and Industry* of 14 May 1976 explained the operation of the new EEC council directive on outward processing relief and referred to regulations on this subject which would be laid before Parliament in the near future. The Import Duties (Outward Processing Relief) Regulations 1976 (SI 1976 No. 838) were laid before Parliament on 7 June 1976 and come into operation on 28 June 1976. Copies are available from HMSO, price 20p.

These regulations provide for relief from import duties and a similar instrument is being laid before Parliament to provide for relief from agricultural levies.

Notice No. 235 – Outward Processing Relief EEC 1976 – is also now available and copies can be obtained from local Customs and Excise offices.

Government Publications in London

from

Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holborn WCIV 6HB

Generalised tariff preference scheme (GSP): restoration of normal duties

Trade and Industry of 27 February, 19 March, 16 April and 21 May gave details of GSP tariff quotas exhausted and GSP ceilings reached up to 3 May. HM Customs have stated that the position on the restoration of normal duties for the month ending 1 June is as follows:

I TARIFF QUOTAS AND SPECIAL CEILINGS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Customs quota reference*	Date UK quota share exhausted	Community butoir reached: duty to be re-imposed	
				On date	For goods from
ex 41.02.B	Bovine cattle leather, etc. – Other, excluding leather not further prepared than tanned	1545	27.2.76	14.5.76	Argentina
† 44.15	Plywood, blockboard, laminboard, battenboard and similar laminated wood products (including veneered panels and sheets), inlaid wood and marquetry	1685		18.5.76	Malaysia
55.05.BII	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale: Other: other – measuring per single yarn, per kg.				
	—14,000m or less	3503	18.5.76		
	—more than 14,000m and up to 40,000m	3511	13.5.76		
	—more than 40,000m and up to 80,000m	3538	26.4.76	11.5.76	Colombia
ex 59.04	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables, plaited or not – of sisal	4002		11.5.76	Brazil
64.02	Footwear with outer soles of leather or composition leather, etc.				
A	Footwear with uppers of leather	4231		26.5.76	Yugoslavia
B	Other	4258	7.1.76	5.5.76	Pakistan
70.13 (S/C)	Glassware (other than articles falling within heading no. 70.19)	4398		21.5.76	Yugoslavia
‡ 85.01.AII	Generators, motors and rotary converters: Other	4886		30.4.76	Yugoslavia
85.21.D and E	Diodes, transistors and similar semi-conductor devices: electronic micro circuits Parts	4924	27.5.76		

* See HM Customs Tariff, Part 11

† The re-impostion of duty on plywood from Malaysia does not apply to the UK's additional share of 113.00m³ (vide Art 2(2) of Regulation (EEC) 3008/75).

‡ Omitted from last month's round-up.

S/C Denotes Special Ceiling

II CEILINGS

Tariff heading	Description of goods	Date of restoration of duties: From all sources	Date of restoration of duties: From particular sources (inner ceilings)
29.04.AIIIb)	Other butyl alcohols		Romania 17.5.76
60.05 ex AII and ex B	Outer garments and other articles, knitted or crocheted, etc – Outer garments and clothing accessories: of cotton Other: Of cotton		Singapore 25.5.76
76.02	Wrought bars, rods, angles, shapes and sections, of aluminium, aluminium wire		Yugoslavia 21.5.76
85.04.A	Electric accumulators: lead-acid accumulators		Yugoslavia 23.5.76
87.12.B	Parts and accessories of articles falling within heading nos. 87.09, 87.10 or 87.11: Other		Yugoslavia 21.5.76

Inquiries about current availability of preferences may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

Have you a good export picture?

Each week *Trade and Industry* publishes pictures illustrating Britain's export business. Companies with export successes are invited to send in the story with a photograph showing the goods in manufacture, ready for despatch, or, preferably, on arrival overseas. The story must, of course, reach us while it is still news.

Send your export photographs to the Editor, *Trade and Industry*, Room 439, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

More on the EEC

Information on EEC matters and about member states can often be found in other sections of 'Trade and Industry'. For this week's additional news, turn to the following pages:

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Tariff quota for unwaterlined newsprint

An Order (The Import Duties (Quota Relief) (No. 3) Order 1976 SI 1976 No. 868) coming into operation on 1 July 1976, has been made continuing for the second half of 1976 relief under the tariff quota from import duty on newsprint. The order applies to newsprint under subheading 48.01 E which complies with the definition in the additional note to Chapter 48 of the Customs Tariff, except that it is unwatermarked or insufficiently watermarked.

This Order amends the Import Duties (Quota Relief) (No. 4) Order 1975 (SI 1975 No. 2081), which provided for the implementation and administration of the United Kingdom's share of a number of EEC tariff quotas, including that for newsprint, for 1976 (see page 38 of the 2 January 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry*). The new EEC regulation (1171/76), which amends the earlier regulation (2886/75) to provide that unwatermarked newsprint may continue to be admitted to benefit under the tariff quota after 30 June 1976, is published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* (No. L131 of 20 May 1976, page 6).

Inquiries should be addressed to General Division 2, Department of Trade, Room 333, Kingsgate House, 66/74 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6SJ. Copies of the Order and *Official Journal* will be available from HMSO, PO Box 569, London SE1.

New EC Legislation

The legislation listed below has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* as indicated against each item. The *Official Journal* is now published in English and copies should be obtained from HMSO. Information about the items listed, in so far as other member states' requirements are concerned, is available to British exporters from Department of Trade, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 7174/482/408). Other information may be obtained from the reference point given at the end of the item.

Common agricultural policy

The texts of the following regulations which affect the various agricultural sectors in the EEC have been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*:

General. Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L146, 4 June 1976, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 832/76 (published in *Official Journal* L100, 14 April 1976) amending Regulations 359/67/EEC, 950/68/EEC, (EEC) 3330/74, (EEC) 2727/75 and (EEC) 2744/75 on the tariff nomenclature of certain cereal, rice, beef and veal and sugar products:

Page 8, Annex II; subheading 01.02 A II b) 1 shall read as follows:

'1. Not yet having any permanent teeth, of a weight of not less than 350kg but not more than 450kg in the case of male animals, or of not less than 320kg but not more than 420kg in the case of female animals (a)'.

Page 11, Annex II; the beginning of heading No. 23.02 shall read as follows:

'Brans, sharps and other residues derived from the sifting, milling or working of cereals or of leguminous vegetables'.

Cereals. Regulation (EEC) 1257/76 on the detailed rules with respect to aid for durum wheat during the 1976/77 marketing year (*Official Journal* L143, 1 June 1976).

Corrigendum. The *Official Journal* L144, 2 June 1976, contains the following correction to Regulation (EEC) 1157/76 (published in *Official Journal* L130, 19 May 1976) amending for the sixth time Regulation (EEC) 2042/75 on special detailed rules for the application of the system of import and export licences for cereals and rice:

Page 32, footnote (5) shall read as follows:

(5) This communication was made on 18 May 1976.

Wine. Regulation (EEC) 1281/76 amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) 567/76 laying down general rules governing the distillation of table wines for which the distillation contract must be approved before 15 April 1976 (*Official Journal* L144, 2 June 1976).

Flax and hemp. Regulation (EEC) 1309/76 supplementing the annex to Regulation (EEC) 771/74 laying down detailed rules for granting aid for flax and hemp. This adds to the annex with effect from the 1976/77 marketing year the variety Datcha (*Official Journal* L146, 4 June 1976).

Commercial policy

Imports of sacks and bags. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L137, 26 May 1976, contains the text of Regulation (EEC) 1229/76 subjecting to authorisation imports into the United Kingdom of sacks and bags of woven polyolefin fabrics originating in the Republic of Korea.

Further information: Department of Industry, Chemicals and Textiles Division, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU, tel. 01-211 4113.

Harmonisation of legislation

Pollution of the aquatic environment. The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L129, 18 May 1976, contains the text of Directive 76/464/EEC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the community.

Further information: Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB, tel. 01-212 3546.

Applications for copies of the 'Official Journal of the European Communities' containing the legislation referred to should be made to HMSO and not to the inquiry points given in the notices.

Tariff quotas 1976 – exhaustions

HM Customs have stated that the United Kingdom's share of the following EEC tariff quota has been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Description of goods	HM Customs serial no. (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
ex 77.01.AII	Unwrought magnesium containing 99.8% or more by weight but less than 99.95% by weight of pure magnesium	4959

The following United Kingdom tariff quotas for imports of paper and board and printed products from individual EFTA countries and Finland (see *Trade and Industry* of 12 December 1975) have also been exhausted:

UK tariff heading	Country of origin	HM Customs serial no. (Part 11 of the UK tariff)
All goods of Ch. 48 not covered by a separate quota excluding goods of subheading 48.01A and heading 48.09	Austria	2907
ex 48.01.CII	Finland	1952
ex 48.07.BIc)1	Sweden	2648
48.16	Sweden	2842

Inquiries about current tariff quota balances may be made to HM Customs and Excise, Central Tariff Quota Registration Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. tel. 01-626 1515, ext. 2570.

Temporary suspension of import duties

The *Official Journal of the European Communities* L145, 3 June 1976, contains the texts of the following regulations:

Regulation (EEC) 1290/76 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain industrial products as set out below. These suspensions shall be applicable from 1 July to 31 December 1976 for the products listed in Table I; from 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977 for the products listed in Table II.

TABLE I

CCT heading no.	Description	Rate of autonomous duty (%)
ex 28.18 C	Magnesium oxide, dead-burned but not fused, of a purity not less than 95%, which contains: a not more than 0.05% by weight of boron compounds evaluated as B_2O_3 b not more than 3.5% by weight of calcium compounds evaluated as CaO c not more than 1.1% by weight of silicon compounds evaluated as SiO_2 d a total of not more than 0.7% by weight of aluminium compounds and iron compounds evaluated as Al_2O_3 and Fe_2O_3	0
ex 29.02 A III	1,2-Dibromoethane	0
ex 29.03 B II	1-Nitropropane	8
ex 29.03 B II	2-Nitropropane	8
ex 29.08 A III c)	Sodium 4-(2-methylallyloxy)benzenesulphonate	0
ex 29.34 B	Dimethyltin dichloride	0
ex 29.42 C VII	Alkaloids of ergot of rye and their salts, ethers, esters and other derivatives, other than lysergic acid	6
ex 29.44 A	Epicillin (INN)	0
ex 29.44 C	Cefazolin (INN) and its salts	0
ex 38.19 G	Catalysts consisting of copper chloride supported on aluminium oxide for the preparation of dichloroethane from ethylene, hydrochloric acid and oxygen (a)	0
ex 39.01 A	Colestipol (INN) hydrochloride	0
ex 39.02 C XII	Copolymerisation products of acrylic and methacrylic esters in the form of film of a thickness not less than 50 and not more than 150 micrometres	0

(a) The application of this suspension will be subject to the condition determined by the competent authorities.

CCT heading no.	Description	Rate of autonomous duty (%)
62.03 A I	Sacks and bags, of a kind used for the packing of goods, used, of jute or of other textile bast fibres of heading no. 57.03	4
ex 85.21 D II	Digital displays consisting of a printed circuit board of a size not exceeding 30mm by 90mm with a single line of digits, not less than three in number comprising light-emitting diodes manufactured from gallium-based semi-conductor compounds mounted thereon ; the line of digits having a protective cover of translucent plastic	0
ex 88.05 B	Visual display system generating images by computer intended for equipping flight simulators for civil aircraft (a)	0

TABLE II

CCT heading no.	Description	Rate of autonomous duty %
ex 28.04 C III	Tellurium powder	0
ex 28.21	Dichromium trioxide for production of chromium metal or chromium carbide (a)	12.4
28.51 A	Heavy hydrogen (deuterium) and compounds thereof (including heavy water) : mixtures and solutions containing deuterium in which the ratio of the deuterium atoms to the normal hydrogen atoms exceeds 1 : 5,000 in number (Euratom)	0
ex 28.55 A	Iron phosphides (ferro-phosphorus) containing 15% or more by weight of phosphorus, for use exclusively in the manufacture of refined phosphoric iron or steel (a)	0
ex 28.57 B	Manganese nitride containing not more than 8% of nitrogen by weight	0
ex 29.01 D VI	Vinyltoluenes	0
ex 29.01 D VI	1,2,4,5-Tetramethylbenzene	0
ex 29.02 A II b)	1,2,3-Trichloropropenes	0
ex 29.02 A III	Vinyl bromide	0
ex 29.02 B	Dodecachloropentacyclodecanes	0
ex 29.02 B	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	0
ex 29.03 A	Benzene-1,3-disulphonic acid	0
ex 29.03 B II	Nitromethane	0
ex 29.04 C I	Butane-1,3-diol	0
ex 29.06 A IV	2-*tert*-Butyl-4-ethylphenol	0
ex 29.06 A IV	2-Isopropylphenol	6
ex 29.06 B V	1,1,3-Tris(5-*tert*-butyl-4-hydroxy-2-methylphenyl)butane	0
ex 29.08 D	Bis(*alpha*,*alpha*-dimethylbenzyl) peroxide	0
ex 29.09	1,2-Epoxybutane	7
ex 29.11 A IV	2,3-Dimethylvaleraldehyde	0
ex 29.13 A I	5-Methylhexan-2-one	0
ex 29.13 B I b)	Refined natural camphor	0
ex 29.13 D I	3-*beta*-Hydroxy-16-*alpha*-methylpregn-5-en-20-one	6
ex 29.13 F	1,4-Naphthoquinone	0
ex 29.13 G II	Dichlone (ISO)	0
ex 29.13 G II	Chlordecone (ISO)	0
ex 29.14 A II c) 4	16-*alpha*,17-*alpha*-Epoxy-20-oxopregn-5-en-3-*beta*-yl acetate	6
ex 29.14 A II c) 4	11-*alpha*,17-*alpha*,21-Trihydroxy-16-*alpha*-methyl-5-*alpha*-pregnane-3,20-dione 21-acetate 11-(toluene-4-sulphonate)	9
ex 29.14 A XI	2,2'-Ethylenedioxydiethyl bis(2-ethylbutyrate)	0
ex 29.14 B IV b)	2,2-Bis(acryloyloxymethyl)butyl acrylate	0
ex 29.14 B IV b)	Butyl perchlorocrotonate	0
ex 29.15 A IV a)	Azelaic acid	0
ex 29.15 A IV a)	Sebacic acid	0
ex 29.15 C III	Dibenzyl phenymalonate	0
ex 29.15 C III	Benzene-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid	0
ex 29.15 C III	Benzene-1,2,4-tricarboxylic acid 1,2-anhydride	0
ex 29.15 C III	Tetrachlorophthalic anhydride	0
ex 29.16 A II	*L*-Malic acid and its salts and esters	0
29.16 A III a)	Crude calcium tartrate	3.5
ex 29.16 B VI	Dioctadecyl (3-*tert*-butyl-4-hydroxy-5-methylbenzyl)malonate	0
ex 29.16 B VI	Pentaerythritol tetra-3-(3,5-di*tert*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate	0
ex 29.16 B VI	Octadecyl 3-(3,5-di*tert*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate	0
ex 29.16 C III	*DL*-2-(3-Benzolyphenyl)propionic acid	12
ex 29.16 D	Prostaglandin E_1	0
ex 29.16 D	Dinoprostone (INN)	0
ex 29.22 E II	1,8-Naphthylenediamine	0
ex 29.22 E II	*m*-Phenylenebis(methylamine)	0
ex 29.23 A II	Dinoprost (INN), trometamol salt (INN)	0
ex 29.23 A II	Bis(2-dimethylaminoethyl) ether	0
ex 29.23 A II	(+)-4-Dimethylamino-3-methyl-1,2-diphenylbutan-2-ol	0
ex 29.23 A II	*N*-(2-[4-(1,2-Diphenylvinyl)phenoxy]ethyl)diethylammonium chloride	0
ex 29.23 C	Ketamine (INN) hydrochloride	0
ex 29.23 D V	Tranexamic acid (INN)	0
ex 29.23 E	*N*-Benzyl-*N*-(3-hydroxybenzoylmethyl)methylammonium chloride	0
ex 29.23 E	Methyldopa (INN)	0
ex 29.25 A II	*N*-Acetyl-*DL*-valine	0
29.25 B II a)	5-Ethyl-5-phenylbarbituric acid (phenobarbital) and its salts	11
ex 29.26 A I	ortho-Benzoicsulphimide (saccharin) and its sodium salt	8
ex 29.27	4-Bromophenylacetonitrile	0
ex 29.27	2-(3-Phenoxyphenyl)propiononitrile	0
ex 29.27	(-)-*N*-(*alpha*-Cyano-4-hydroxy-3-methoxy-*alpha*-methylphenethyl)acetamide	0
ex 29.29	20-Hydroxyiminopregna-5,16-dien-3-yl acetate	0
ex 29.29	(-)-2-(3,4-Dihydroxybenzyl)-2-hydrazinopropionic acid	0
ex 29.29	1,3-Bis(4-chlorobenzylideneamino)guanidinium chloride	0
ex 29.29	Mitopodozide (INN)	6
ex 29.31 B	Octadecyl (4-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylbenzylthio)acetate	0
ex 29.31 B	4-(Methylthio)phenol	0
ex 29.31 B	5-Fluoro-2-methyl-1-(4-methylthiobenzylidene)inden-3-ylacetic acid	0
ex 29.31 B	Tolnaftate (INN)	0
ex 29.34 B	Phenylphosphonothioic dichloride	0
ex 29.34 B	*O*-Ethyl phenylphosphonochloridothioate	0
ex 29.35 Q	(25*R*)-Spirost-5-en-3-*beta*-ol (diosgenin) and its esters	0
ex 29.35 Q	2-Acetyl-1,4-butyrolactone	0
ex 29.35 Q	1,4-Diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane (triethylenediamine)	0
ex 29.35 Q	2,4-Di*tert*-butyl-6-(5-chlorobenzotriazol-2-yl)phenol	0
ex 29.35 Q	2-Benzotriazol-2-yl-*p*-cresol	0
ex 29.35 Q	Indometacin (INN)	0
ex 29.35 Q	2-Benzotriazol-2-yl-4-(1,1,3,3-tetramethylbutyl)phenol	0
ex 29.35 Q	2-Methylpyridine	0
ex 29.35 Q	Methyl 3-amino-5,6-dichloropyrazine-2-carboxylate	0
ex 29.35 Q	(-)-1-*tert*-Butylamino-3-(4-morpholino-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yloxy)propan-2-ol	0
ex 29.35 Q	Amprolium (INN) hydrochloride	0
ex 29.35 Q	Tiabendazole (INN) for the production of medicaments for human or animal use (a)	0
ex 29.35 Q	Orazamide (INN)	0
ex 29.35 Q	Hexan-6-olide (*epsilon*-caprolactone)	8.4
ex 29.35 Q	5-Ethyl-2-methylpyridine	0

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CCT heading no.	Description	Rate of autonomous duty (%)
ex 29.35 Q	7-Oxabicyclo[2.2.1]heptane-2,3-dicarboxylic acid (3,6-endoxyohexahydrophthalic) and its sodium salts	10
ex 29.35 Q	4-Nitrobenzyl 7-amino-3-methyl-8-oxo-5-thia-1-azabicyclo[4.2.0]oct-2-ene-2-carboxylate and its salts	0
ex 29.36	Sulfaguanidine (INN)	0
ex 29.36	Quinethazone (INN)	0
ex 29.36	Sulfathiazole (INN)	0
ex 29.38 B II	Panthenol (INN)	0
ex 29.38 B II	Calcium pantothenate (INN)	4.7
ex 29.38 B II	Folic acid (INN)	0
ex 29.39 C I	Serum gonadotrophin (INN)	0
ex 29.39 D II	Methylprednisolone (INN)	8
ex 29.39 D II	21-Chloro-9—uoro-11-*beta*-hydroxy-16-*alpha*, 17-isopropylidenedioxypregn-4-ene-3,20-dione	0
ex 29.39 D II	Fluorometholone (INN)	0
ex 29.39 D II	Betamethasone (INN) 21-acetate	0
ex 29.39 D II	Betamethasone (INN) 17,21-dipropionate	0
ex 29.39 D II	Triamcinolone (INN)	8
ex 29.39 D II	Triamcinolone hexacetonide (INN)	8
ex 29.39 D II	Triamcinolone (INN) acetonide	8
ex 29.39 D II	Triamcinolone (INN) 16-*alpha*,21-diacetate	8
ex 29.39 E	Calusterone (INN)	0
ex 29.39 E	Prasterone (INN)	0
ex 29.39 E	Calcitonin (INN), porcine	0
ex 29.39 E	Calcitonin (INN), salmon-type, and its salts	0
ex 29.40	Bromelains (INN)	0
ex 29.40	Mixture of streptokinase (INN) and streptodornase (INN)	0
ex 29.40	Peroxidase	0
ex 29.41 A	Digitalis glycosides, other than digoxin	0
ex 29.41 D	Purified glycoside of squills	0
ex 29.41 D	Calcium salts of sennoside A and B	0
ex 29.41 D	Podophyllotoxin, benzylidene-*beta*-D-glucoside	0
ex 29.42 C VII	Pilocarpine nitrate	0
ex 29.42 C VII	Pilocarpine hydrochloride	0
ex 29.44 A	Azidocillin (INN) and its salts	0
ex 29.44 C	Tombramycin (INN) and its salts	0
ex 29.44 C	Gentamicin (INN) and its salts	0
ex 29.44 C	Cefradine (INN)	0
ex 29.44 C	Amphotericin B (INN)	0
ex 29.44 C	Salts of cefaloridine (INN)	7
ex 29.44 C	Salts of cefalotin (INN)	7
ex 29.44 C	Salts of cefalexin (INN)	7
ex 29.44 C	Minocycline (INN) *mono*-hydrochloride dihydrate	0
ex 29.44 C	Lincomycin (INN) and its salts and esters	0
ex 29.44 C	Clindamycin (INN) and its salts and esters	0
ex 29.44 C	Spectinomycin (INN) dihydrochloride pentalhydrate	0
ex 29.44 C	Spectinomycin (INN) sulphate	0
ex 29.44 C and ex 30.03 A II b)	Bleomycin (INN) sulphate	0
ex 29.44 C	Tylosin (INN) and its salts	0
ex 29.44 C	Sisomicin (INN) sulphate	0
ex 29.44 C	Monensin (INN) and its salts	0
ex 29.44 C and ex 30.03 A II b)	Amikacin (INN) and its salts	0
ex 30.01 A I	Bovine livers for organotherapeutic purposes, dried and powdered	5
ex 30.01 B, ex 30.03 A II b) and B II b)	Human albumin 20%	0
ex 30.01 B, ex 30.03 A II b) and B II b)	Human fibrinogen	
ex 30.01 B, ex 30.03 A II b) and B II b)	Preserved serum prepared on a basis of human blood	0
ex 30.01 B	The following substances derived from human blood: antihaemophilic globulin, anti-Rh_o(D)-globulin and plasmaprotein solution	0
ex 30.01 B	Extracts of suprarenal glands	0
ex 30.01 B	Intrinsic factor (purified extracts of mucous membrane of swine, dried)	5
ex 30.01 B	Extract of liver of bovine animals	5
ex 30.01 B	Lyophilised gamma globulin derived from human blood	0
ex 30.01 B	Anti-D immunoplasma	0
ex 30.02 A	Tetanus immunoglobulin	0
ex 30.02 A	Anti-tetanus immunoplasma	0
ex 30.03 A II b) and B II b)	Anti-haemophilic globulin and anti-Rh_o(D)-globulin derived from human blood	0
32.01 A	Tanning extracts of wattle (Mimosa)	0
ex 32.01 D	Tanning extracts of eucalyptus	4
ex 32.01 D	Tanning extracts derived from gambier and myrobalan fruits	0
ex 32.04 A IV	Dyeing extracts of logwood, yellow woods or red woods	0
ex 32.07 B	Polycarbonate with a carbon black content of not less than 22% and not more than 28% by weight	0
ex 38.03 B	Acid activated montmorillonite which when examined by X-ray powder diffraction, shows four principal lines corresponding to crystal interplanar spacing (d values) of 0.44, 0.40, 0.33 and 0.25nm the line corresponding to 0.40nm being the most intense	0
38.07 A	Spirits of turpentine	3
38.07 B	Sulphate turpentine: crude dipentene	3
38.07 C	Wood turpentine: terpenic solvents produced by the distillation or other treatment of coniferous woods, sulphite turpentine: pine oil	3
ex 38.08 C	Rosin, hydrogenated, polymerised, dimerised or oxidised	4
ex 38.08 C	Hydeoabietyl alcohol	0
ex 38.19 G	Catalysts consisting of bis(2-dimethylaminoethyl) ether dissolved in 1,1'-oxydipropan-2-ol	0
ex 38.19 G	Catalysts consisting essentially of diphosphorus pentaoxide on an inert support	0
ex 38.19 K	Sintered magnesite mixed with small quantities of mineral oils	0
ex 38.19 U	Mixtures of aldehydes from lignin	0
ex 38.19 U	Calcined bauxite (refractory grade)	0
ex 38.19 U	Mixtures of tertiary thiols	9
ex 38.19 U	Crude guanine (paste of fish scales and other waste of fish, containing mineral oil, of a kind used for the manufacture of pearl essence)	0
ex 38.19 U	Diogesnin, crude	0
ex 38.19 U	White mortar, non-refractory, consisting of marble powder and withe cement, excluding coating materials used in painting and those of a type used for masonry	0

CCT heading no.	Description	Rate of autonomous duty (%)
ex 38.19 U	White granules and powders consisting of a mixture of melted, recrystallised mineral substances (mainly sand, limestone and dolomite)	12
ex 38.19 U	Intermediate products from the manufacture of monensin salts	0
ex 39.01 C III	Film base, in rolls, of polyethylene terephthalate, for cinematography or photography (including radiography)	8
ex 39.01 C III	Waste and scrap of polyester sheets coated with tungsten compounds	0
ex 39.01 C III	Polyester made from naphthalene-2,6-dicarboxylic acid and ethylene glycol in the form of film, whether or not in rolls	0
ex 39.01 C III	Reflecting polyester sheeting, whether or not in rolls	0
ex 39.01 C III	Polyhexanolide	12.8
ex 39.01 C IV	Polyamide 6 in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3 (b) to Chapter 39 for the manufacture of textile threads and fibres (a)	15
ex 39.01 C VII	Polyethylene oxide having a molecular weight of not less than 4,000,000	8
ex 39.01 C VII	Polyimide film, whether or not in rolls	0
ex 39.02 C III	Polysulphohaloethylenes in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3 (a) and (b) to Chapter 39	4
ex 39.02 C VI a) and b)	Copolymers solely of allyl alcohol with styrene which have an acetyle value of not less than 175	0
ex 39.02 C VII b)	Polyvinyl chloride sheeting, whether or not in rolls, of a thickness less than 1 mm and coated on one side with pressure sensitive adhesive in which are embedded small hollow glass balls having a diameter of not less than 50 and not more than 100 micrometres	0
ex 39.02 C VIII	Copolymers of vinylidene chloride with vinyl chloride, containing not less than 80% by weight of vinylidene chloride, in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3 (a) and (b) to Chapter 39, for the manufacture of fibres, monofil or strip (a)	4
ex 39.02 C XII	Reflecting polyacrylic sheeting, whether or not in rolls	0
ex 39.02 C XIV a)	Copolymers of ethyl acrylate with chloroethylvinyl ether, in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3 (b) to Chapter 39	12
ex 39.02 C XIV a)	Alternating copolymers of ethylene and maleic anhydride whose 0.5% dispersion in aqueous ammonia (pH 8.5) at approximately 20°C has a viscosity between 15,000 and 60,000 cP	0
ex 39.02 C XIV a)	Copolymers of vinyl chloride with vinyl acetate and vinyl alcohol containing by weight not less than 90% and not more than 92% of vinyl chloride, not less than 2% and not more than 4% of vinyl acetate and not less than 4% and not more than 8% of vinyl alcohol, in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3 (a) and (b) to Chapter 39	0
ex 39.02 C XIV b)	Polyvinyl fluoride film whether or not in rolls	0
ex 39.03 B II b) 2, B III b) 4 aa) and B IV b) 4 aa)	Waste and scrap of photographic (including cinematographic) and X-ray film	0
39.03 B V a) 1	Ethylcellulose, not plasticised	4
ex 39.03 B V a) 2	Ethylhydroxyethylcellulose, insoluble in water	4
ex 39.05 B	Rubber hydrochloride film of a thickness not exceeding 0.02mm, whether or not in rolls	0
ex 41.02 B	Bovine skins, chrome tanned in the moist state (wet blue)	0
ex 41.02 B	Leather of East India kip, whole, whether or not the heads and legs have been removed, each weighing more than 4.5kg net and not more than 8kg, not further prepared than vegetable tanned, whether or not having undergone further preservative treatment with oil, but obviously unsuitable for immediate use in the manufacture of leather articles	0
41.03 B I	Sheep and lambskin leather, except leather falling within heading no. 41.06, 41.07 or 41.08, other, not further prepared than tanned	0
41.04 B I	Goat and kid skin leather, except leather falling within heading no. 41.06, 41.07 or 41.08, other, not further prepared than tanned	0
41.05 B I	Other kinds of leather, except leather falling within heading no. 41.06, 41.07 or 41.08, not further prepared than tanned	0
ex 44.22	Used casks and barrels of oak, whether assembled or not; their staves and heads	0
ex 44.28 C	Shingles for roofs and walls, of coniferous wood	0
45.02	Natural cork in block, plates, sheets or strips (including cubes or square slabs, cut to size for corks or stoppers)	4
ex 48.01 E	Japanese tissue (special long-fibre paper) for the manufacture of artifical sausage casings or for wrapping man-made textile fibres (continuous) in the course of industrial processing (a)	0
ex 49.11 B	Microcopies on an opaque base intended for databanks and libraries (a)	0
ex 49.11 B	Artists' screen prints (commonly described as serigraphs), signed by the artist and numbered from 1 to 200	0
ex 51.01 A	Single yarn of polytetrafluoroethylene	0
ex 51.01 A	Yarn wholly of polyglycollic acid	0
51.01 B I	Hollow-filament yarn of regenerated textile fibres	0
ex 51.02 A I	Monofil wholly of fluorocarbon polymer	0
ex 51.04 A	Woven fabrics of polyvinyl alcohol fibres for machine embroidery	0
ex 54.03 B I a)	Unbleached linen yarn (excluding yarn of flax tow), measuring per kg 30,000m or less for the manufacture of multiple or cabled yarns for the footwear industry or for whipping cables (a)	0
ex 56.01 A	Synthetic textile fibres of aromatic polyamides obtained by polycondensation of *m*-phenylenediamine and *iso*phthalic acid	0
ex 58.01 B	Carpets, carpeting and rugs of silk or of waste silk other than noil, of which the pile contains not less than 85% by weight of silk or of waste silk other than noil	20% with a max. of 4 ua per m²
ex 58.07 A	Braid wholly of polyglycollic acid yarn	0
ex 59.03	Bonded fibre fabrics and similar bonded yarn fabrics of aromatic polyamide man-made fibres produced by polycondensation of *m*-phenylenediamine and isophthalic acid	0
ex 59.04	Coir yarn for the manufacture of carpets, carpeting and rugs, mats and the like (a)	0
ex 59.17 D	Yarn of polytetrafluoroethylene, impregnated, whether or not oiled	0
ex 68.02 B	Artificially coloured granules and chippings	0
ex 69.09 B	Catalyst supports, consisting of porous cordierite ceramic pieces of roughly circular or oval cross-section with parallel sides, having an overall volume of not less than 240ml and not more than 11,100ml, and having a minimum dimension of not less than 70mm and a maximum dimension of not more than 480mm, having not less than 28 continuous channels per 100mm² running parallel to the main axis of symmetry, the total channel cross-section area being not less than 60% and not more than 80% of the whole cross-section area	0
ex 70.19 A IV b)	Glass beads of a diameter of less than 0.1mm and with a refractive index of 2.26	0
ex 76.03	Aluminium alloy strip in coils, containing not less than 18% by weight and not more than 23% by weight of tin and not less than 0.7% by weight and not more than 1.5% by weight of copper as the major alloying elements and having a width of not less than 75mm and not more than 230mm and a thickness of not less than 3mm and not more than 6.5mm	0
ex 81.02 B	Molybdenum alloy sheets of less than 0.20mm thick, containing not less than 98% by weight of molybdenum, not less than 0.40% by weight and not more than 1% by weight of titanium and not less than 0.06% by weight and not more than 0.20% by weight of zirconium, as the major alloying element	0

EEC information – inquiry points at Customs and Excise headquarters

General inquiries on EEC matters which are the concern of HM Customs and Excise may be made to the following telephone extensions:
HM Customs and Excise, King's Beam House, 39-41 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE. Tel: 01-626 1515

	Extn.
Community transit	
International Customs	
Division D	
– Branch 1 and 2	2263/2561
EEC Mediterranean agreements, Greece and Turkey	
International Customs	
Division D	
– Branch 2	2565
EEC Mediterranean agreements, except Greece and Turkey, Anglo-Danish free trade agreement	
International Customs	
Division E	
– Branch 2	2310
Anglo-Irish free trade agreement, Channel Islands, Isle of Man	
International Customs	
Division E	
– Branch 1	2276
Compensatory levies	
International Customs	
Division G	
– Branch 3	2206/2307
European communities – general inquiries	
International Customs	
Division D	2478
– Branch 4	2431
EEC free trade agreements with EFTA countries	
International Customs	
Division E	
– Branch 4	2385/2165
Generalised system of preferences	
International Customs	
Division E	
– Branch 2	2255
ACP/EEC Convention of Lomé	
International Customs	
Division E	
– Branch 2	2294
Copies of public notices and customs forms on EEC matters	
Outfield Directorate	
Division D	
– Branch 3	3079

CCT heading no.	Description	Rate of autonomous duty (%)
ex 81.04 D I	Chromium, in the form of cathode chips or pellets, which contains not more than 0.10% by weight of total oxygen, not more than 0.015% of total aluminium, and not more than 0.001% by weight of aluminium compounds insoluble in boiling 5N hydrochloric acid and in boiling fuming perchloric acid, and evaluated as aluminium, intended for the production of alloy for the manufacture of the following parts of gas turbines and jet engines (a) :	
ex 81.04 D I *cont*	blades, fixed or movable, including their rings, vanes, nozzles	0
ex 81.04 G I	Electrolytic manganese of a purity of at least 99.5% and intended for the chemical industry (a)	0
ex 81.04 K I	Waste and scrap of titanium	0
ex 81.04 K I	Titanium sponge	0
ex 81.04 M	Waste and scrap of uranium depleted in U 235	0
ex 84.51 A	Typewriters with Braille characters	0
ex 84.59 B	Integrally forged, rough-turned components with unit weights of more than 150 metric tons or outer diameters of more than 6,000mm, for reactor pressure vessels	0
ex 84.63	Forged and roughly shaped generator and turbine shafts of a weight exceeding 150 metric tons	0
ex 85.13 B	Sonic convertors consisting of a box approximately 28cm long, approximately 13cm broad and approximately 10cm high, the top being shaped in the form of a cradle to receive a telephone handset, incorporating a lamp to indicate the state of call. This modem (MODulator/DEModulator) converts tele-printer keyboard signals for transmission by telephone line or radio for reconversion to keyboard signals on a distant teleprinter	0
ex 90.01 B	Material consisting of a polarising film, supported on one or both sides by transparent material	0
ex 90.19 BII	Reading appliances for the blind, in which a miniature camera using photo-transistors transmits letters into a scanning board with piezo-electric pencils, and its parts and accessories	0

(a) The application of this suspension will be subject to the conditions determined by the competent authorities.

Regulation (EEC) 1291/76 temporarily and totally suspending the customs duties applicable in the community as originally constituted on a number of chemical products imported from the new member states as set out below. These suspensions shall be applicable from 1 July 1976 to 30 June 1977.

CCT heading no.	Description
ex 28.21	Dichromium trioxide for production of chromium metal or chromium carbide (a)
ex 29.16 CIII	*DL*-2-(3-Benzolphenyl) propionic acid
ex 29.35 Q	Hexan-6-olide (*epsilon*-caprolactone)
ex 29.38 B II	Calcium pantothenate (INN)
ex 29.44 C	Salts of cefaloridine (INN)
ex 29.44 C	Salts of cefalotin (INN)
ex 29.44 C	Salts of cefalexin (INN)
ex 38.19 U	White granules and powders consisting of a mixture of melted, recrystallised mineral substances (mainly sand, limestone and dolomite)
ex 39.01 CIII	Polyhexanolide
ex 39.01 C IV	Polyamide 6 in one of the forms mentioned in Note 3 (b) to Chapter 39 for the manufacture of textile threads and fibres (a)

(a) The application of this suspension will be subject to the conditions determined by the competent authorities.

Bristol detergent-packing machine off to Denmark

Whitehall Machinery's special purpose 'handle-maker' for detergent packaging pictured during test runs at the company's Bristol factory, before being despatched to Colgate-Palmolive in Denmark. The 'handle-maker' applies a 120 micron heat-sealable overtape to the top of the detergent bag and trims and heat-seals through all layers before punching out the handle.

OTAR helps exporters to EEC

If you export to EEC countries OTAR handouts on the following subjects may interest you:

Circulation certificates
Documentation – transit certificates
Invoicing requirements
Temporary suspensions of duty
Preferential trading arrangements between third countries and the Community
Labelling of products

Copies of these and other handouts can be obtained free of charge from the Department of Trade's OTAR section. OTAR helps exporters needing information about the tariff and other requirements of all overseas countries.

Telephone or write to:

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR)
Export Services and Promotions Division

Department of Trade
Export House
50 Ludgate Hill
London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757, ext. 408/439/482
(EEC general inquiries)

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

EEC - your questions answered

This week, we are publishing a selection of questions put to the Department of Industry's EEC Information Unit during the past month.

The unit helps businessmen by answering general questions about EEC membership. Its prime responsibility is with those matters which are the concern of the Department of Industry, Trade, Prices and Consumer Protection, but it is usually possible to direct an inquirer to sources of specialist advice in other Government departments.

Contact the unit by ringing 01-215 4301 (six lines) or by writing to the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.

Travelling in Europe: car insurance

Q. What proof of insurance do I require when motoring in Europe?

A. In accordance with an EEC directive which came into force in 1974 motor insurance policies issued in any member state include the minimum legal cover required for motor insurance in the other member states. These arrangements have since been widened to apply to the non-community countries of Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Austria, Finland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany (GDR) and Hungary. It is possible that other countries may be included in the future. By virtue of these and other measures, insurance checks at frontiers between all the states covered by the arrangements have been abolished. Although British motorists can enter any of these countries without checks being made on their insurance documents, the green card remains an internationally recognised proof of insurance.

A green card is still invaluable in the case of accidents or other matters that involve the police. It should be remembered also that these arrangements provide only the minimum legal cover required by national laws of the countries being visited. You should therefore consult your insurers about the most appropriate cover before you embark on any journey abroad. Most British motorists cover themselves for risks beyond the legal minimum – for example, against 'own vehicle' damage – and if this extra cover is required for journeys abroad, a green card will still be necessary as evidence of this extension.

. . . medical treatment

Q. Where can I find details of medical treatment available for visitors to other EEC countries?

A. When you are staying temporarily in any of the EEC countries you can – if eligible – get medical treatment on the same terms as nationals of that country. The arrangements apply to nationals of EEC countries who are insured in the UK as employed persons. The procedure for obtaining treatment may be more complicated than in the UK and visitors are expected to follow local procedures. In some countries treatment is free, while in others you must pay part of the cost. Elsewhere you must pay the full cost, then claim full or part reimbursement from the sickness institution.

Leaflet SA28 *Medical treatment for visitors to EEC countries* provided by the Department of Health and Social Security contains guidance on eligibility and how to get treatment in each country. Stocks are available from Department of Health and Social Security, Information Division (leaflets), Cannons Park, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AY. Individual copies can be obtained from all DHSS local offices.

General questions on medical treatment in the EEC should be addressed to Department of Health and Social Security, International Relations Division, Alexander Fleming House, Elephant and Castle, London SE1 6BY, tel. 01-407 5522 ext. 6681.

Equal pay directive

Q. I understand there is an EEC directive on equal pay could you give me the details?

A. The purpose of the directive is to approximate the legislative and administrative provisions of the member states of the community dealing with equal pay for the same work or for work to which equal value is attributed. The directive appeared in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, L45 on 19 February 1975.

In general the Equal Pay Act 1970 and the Equal Pay Act (Northern Irealnd) 1970 enable the UK to comply with the directive. There is, however, a provision in the directive that

A busy scene at Boulogne car ferry terminal. British motorists are advised that the green card remains a valuable proof of insurance cover in EEC and some other European countries. (Photo : Boulogne Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

workers should be protected against dismissal if they claim equal pay. This requirement is met in Great Britain by virtue of the 'unfair dismissals' provisions of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 and the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 which make it unlawful to discriminate against any person by treating them less favourably than another person on the grounds that they have asserted their rights under the Equal Pay Act. Appropriate legislative proposals are being introduced in respect of Northern Ireland.

In a recent judgement on a case referred to it by a Belgian court, the European court of justice ruled that under Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome the principle of equal pay among men and women doing the same work is directly applicable in member states and capable of being invoked before national courts. But, except in the case of workers who have previously introduced an action or raised an equivalent claim, the court has specified that the direct effect of Article 119 may not be invoked in support of claims relating to periods of remuneration earlier than the date of the judgement – 8 April 1976 (an article on the ruling appeared in the 7 May 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry*, page 371).

Differences in VAT rates

Q. Do all EEC countries have the value added tax system and if so what rates do they apply?

A. All EEC countries have adopted the value added tax system. However, as the table below shows, differences exist between member states as to the number of rates in force and their scope. The general application of VAT in member states is governed by the second directive on VAT. The draft sixth directive on VAT contains the commission's more detailed proposals for the harmonisation of the structure of VAT in the community, but it does not attempt to harmonise rates of tax.

Rates as a percentage of price before VAT

Country	Standard rate	Reduced rate	Intermediate rate	Increased rate
Belgium	18	6	14	25
Denmark	15	—	—	—
France	20	7	17.6	33.33
Irish Republic	20	10	—	35 or 40
Italy	12	6	18	30 or 35
Luxembourg	10	2 or 5	—	—
Netherlands	16	4	—	—
West Germany	11	5.5	—	—

Further details of VAT rates in the above countries are available from Department of Trade, OTAR section 50, Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU, tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 288 (Belgium), 7174 (Denmark), 423 (France), 466 (Irish Republic and Italy), 288 (Luxembourg and Netherlands) and 467 (West Germany).

Information on VAT harmonisation proposals is obtainable from HM Customs and Excise, Departmental Planning Unit, King's Beam House, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, tel. 01-626 1515 ext. 3194.

Contacts in the commission

Q. I am trying to establish contacts in the European commission. Has a guide to this institution been published?

A. Yes. Full details are given in the Directory of the Commission of the European Communities published as a special supplement to the *Bulletin of the European Communities*. The most recent edition was published in February 1976 and is available from HMSO, price 73½p including postage (ISBN 0 11 935459 4).

EEC information

Free service for businessmen !
The EEC Information Unit helps firms of all types and sizes by answering general questions about EEC membership and by guiding them where necessary to more specialised information sources.
New customers are always welcome, particularly firms new to EEC questions.
The unit's address is : EEC Information Unit,
Department of Industry,
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET.
Tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Useful addresses in Brussels

Commission of the European Communities*
rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Tel. 010 322 735 00 40, or 010 322 735 80 40

Council of the European Communities
rue de la Loi 170
1048 Brussels
Tel. 010 322 736 89 40

UK Permanent Representative to the European Communities (UKREP)
rond-point Robert Schuman 6
1040 Brussels
Tel. 010 322 736 99 20

British Embassy (Commercial section)
Britannia House
rue Joseph II 28
1040 Brussels
Tel. 010 322 219 11 65

British Chamber of Commerce for Belgium and Luxembourg
Britannia House
rue Joseph II 30
1040 Brussels
Tel. 010 322 219 07 88

Permanent Conference of the Chambers of Commerce of the EEC
avenue de Tervuren 36
1040 Brussels
Tel. 010 322 734 33 29

Union of Industries of the European Community (UNICE)
rue de Loxum 6
1000 Brussels
Tel. 010 322 513 45 62

European Bureau of Consumers' Unions
rue Royale 29
1000 Brussels
Tel. 010 322 219 13 39

* Full details of the commission are given in a directory published as a special supplement to the *Bulletin of the European Communities* available from HMSO price 73½p (inc. postage) ISBN 0 11 935459 4.

Details of other trade associations, etc., based in Brussels can be provided by the EEC Information Unit, Department of Industry, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET, tel. 01-215 4301 (six lines).

Trade Information

Government policy and procedure on anti-dumping action

On 9 June, Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, placed a paper in the House of Commons Library to explain how the anti-dumping legislation works in practice. The paper is reproduced here.

1 In recent months the Department of Trade has received a very large number of inquiries by Members of Parliament and others raising various points on anti-dumping procedures. This paper is intended to explain how the legislation works.

2 When people say goods are 'dumped', they often mean that they are cheap. But internationally 'dumping' describes a situation in which an exporter is selling goods more cheaply abroad than in his home market. There is therefore no necessary connection between dumping and cheapness; lots of very cheap goods are imported which are not dumped and conversely very expensive goods may quite possibly be dumped.

3 The object of anti-dumping action is to remove distortion of competition arising from the import of particular goods from particular sources at 'unfair' prices. This can help an industry which may be in difficulties over a particular product. And it may be specially effective where the product accounts for a large proportion of its total activity or where it is the sole item manufactured.

The legislation

4 Anti-dumping action by the UK began in 1957 when the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act was passed. This followed a decision in the Gatt that powers should be sought to impose anti-dumping or countervailing duties in appropriate cases as envisaged in Article VI of the Gatt. There were two main reasons for this: insufficient progress had been made in the Gatt towards the elimination of export and production subsidies and, because of the reduction and elimination of general tariff barriers, it seemed wise to leave room for some action against unfair competition. It was emphasised by ministers at the time that the Act was not to be regarded as a covert attempt to give additional protection against legitimate low cost trade, that action would be neither mandatory nor automatic and that the Act would be used sparingly and with thought for our export trade. Its main value was expected to be deterrent.

5 In 1967 the Gatt Anti-Dumping Code was evolved. This interpreted and filled out the provisions of Article VI of the Gatt itself: it also introduced some new concepts. To give effect to these new concepts a further Act was passed in 1968. The main purpose of this Act was to make the anti-dumping process more flexible by giving the power to impose provisional charges to duty and to suspend duties. It also made new provisions for the assessment of the fair market price (by which dumping is judged) in the case of state trading countries. It was made clear by ministers at the time that the intention was to take the provisional action only sparingly and where there was particular need for it – eg in the case of seasonal products or where forestalling was threatened and where serious and possibly irreversible damage to industry might occur before the completion of the Department's inquiries.

6 The 1957 and 1968 Acts were consolidated in the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 which is the current basis for action against dumped goods.

The basis on which dumping is determined

7 In the case of market economy countries imported goods are normally regarded as dumped if the export price from the country of origin is less than the price at which the goods are being sold on the home market. This latter is known as the 'fair market price'; the comparison is made at ex-factory level where possible. If the goods in question are not being sold in the exporting country or not in such circumstances that the fair market price can be determined in the normal way (the Act sets this out in some detail), the fair market price may be determined by reference to:

(i) any price obtained for the relevant goods when exported from the country of origin (ie to third markets);
(ii) the cost or the estimated cost of production of the goods in question with appropirate additions in respect of administrative, selling or other costs and profit.

8 If the system of trading in the country of origin is such that, as a result of the economic system, the fair market price cannot reasonably be determined by any of the above methods there is taken any price obtained for the goods of that description when exported to the UK *from a third country*, with adjustments made to ensure comparability. This is the method most commonly used in dealing with cases involving goods dumped from state trading countries.

9 The Act and the Gatt Code impose certain limitations on the Department's powers to take anti-dumping action. In particular:

i action can be taken only when goods *are being* or *have been imported*. The threat of imports is not enough, though evidence of firm contracts placed is normally regarded as being within the meaning 'are being imported';

ii the effect of dumping has to be such as to cause or threaten material injury to an established industry or materially retard the establishment of an industry. The Gatt Code lays down detailed rules on how injury is to be determined. The Department has to be satisfied 'on positive findings' that dumped imports are 'demonstrably the principal cause of material injury'; and in reaching this conclusion the Department has to weigh 'all other factors taken together which may be adversely affecting the industry'.

iii in using the third country comparison (para 8 above) the Department has to ensure that the goods chosen as the basis of comparison are comparable (though *not* necessarily identical) and that adjustments are made to ensure that the comparison is between prices 'on two similar sales'.

10 The Department's actions are subject to challenge in the Courts; and any substantive duties imposed are subject to affirmative resolution of both Houses of Parliament. There has so far been one challenge in the Courts: R. v. Leopold Lazarus (Judgement 1972 L. No. 3630 (6..3..1973)).

How the Department handles cases

11 The Department's procedures obviously change from time to time to meet the demands made. The main shift was made in 1972 when they were changed to ease the task of the applicant. The main changes made were as follows:

a lowering the tests of material injury (eg by accepting loss of expected profits) and taking more account of threats of injury;
b accepting price undertakings from foreign suppliers without necessarily completing the investigation;
c accepting indirect evidence based on UK cost in making out a prima facie case;
d carrying out unpublicised price investigations to help the formulation of a prima facie case;
e making more use of the provisional charges. This has to be done with some care since the legislation allows only three months, or in certain circumstances six, to complete the investigation and the information at our disposal has to be precise enough to relate the duty to the apparent level of dumping. The imposition of a provisional charge tends to queer the pitch for the negotiation of a price undertaking, from an exporter. If there is any chance of the latter the Department tends to go for it in the interests of simplicity and speed rather than for the provisional duty.

12 Normally the Department first hears of potential anti-dumping applications when they receive an inquiry asking what action is necessary to submit one. The Department has a booklet written for the guidance of industries seeking protection possibly dumped imports, which is made freely available. This explains the legislation and what evidence will be needed if the case is to get off the ground. An informal meeting usually follows between representatives of the industry and officials from the Department. At this stage officials discuss with the industry what is the best approach to the case, what further information is needed, how it can most easily be obtained, and what help the Department and Embassies abroad can give and so on.

13 It is made clear that what is required at this stage is *not* proof of dumping (that is the ultimate responsibility of the Department) but enough evidence to constitute a prima facie case. Large and sophisticated industries are usually in a position to provide without help most of what is required – eg prices of the offending goods in the exporting country and rough estimates as to how the UK industry is being affected by the exports concerned. Other industries require more assistance and the Department does its best to give this.

14 When the Department is satisfied that a prima facie case has been established it is announced for full investigation by means of a Press Notice. Other interested parties, who may include importers and consumers, are invited to give their views. It often becomes clear at this point that by no means everyone is enthusiastic about limiting the imports of the goods in question – a threat to one industry can be a usefully cheap raw material or component to another.

15 The announcement of a full investigation is followed by an assessment of the material injury factor by the Department's professional accountants who visit firms in the applicant industry for this purpose, studying, with reference to their accounts, the effect that the allegedly dumped imports are having on their profitability, prices, etc. Other factors besides these imports may, of course, affect their business and the investigation must take account of them.

16 At the same time in the case of market economy countries officials visit the exporting firms in the country concerned to compare the domestic with the export prices at a comparable level – usually ex-factory. In the case of alleged dumping from State Trade Countries a comparison of the relevant prices is made (see paras 7 and 8 above). Technical advice is sought where necessary and evidence from third parties is sifted and examined. The case is brought to a conclusion according to the results of the investigation and assessment of material injury and national interest. A suitable announcement to the Press and appropriate trade papers follows.

17 If an anti-dumping duty is to be imposed an Order is made subject to the approval of Parliament by affirmative resolution. On the other hand there is an increasing tendency for cases to be settled by an undertaking from the exporting firm to raise their prices. This does not require Parliamentary approval. In times of inflation, duties are likely to be overtaken rapidly by price rises and undertakings with suitable provision for reviews usually offer better protection to an industry in difficulties. Moreover, before a duty can be altered the case has to be re-investigated – a time consuming process – whereas a price undertaking (which can be accepted during the course of the investigation, thereby shortening the proceedings) can usually be changed to the benefit of the UK applicant with a minimum of trouble. One of the reasons why the Department's work in terms of duties imposed does not reflect their actual success is that cases are often settled informally in this way.

18 The length of time taken over a case varies with its complexity. Economy in the use of staff makes it impossible to give each application immediate and undivided attention from the moment it is received; the number of staff engaged on this work has been increased and every effort is made to clear cases as quickly as possible. From quick comparisons we have made with practice in other countries it would appear that cases are handled here at least as quickly as in other countries.

The powers of the UK in relation to the EEC

19 Until 30 June 1977 (when the transitional period for our joining the EEC comes to an end) the UK may continue to take anti-dumping action under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 against dumped imports from third countries except where the interests of another Community producing industry are involved or the goods are subject to the CAP. These are already the responsibility of the Commission under EEC Regulations. From 1 July 1977 dumping from outside the Community will also be a Community matter.

20 Until 31 December 1977 the Commission may consider and recommend action on complaints of dumping into the UK from other EEC Member States. After that date there is no provision for taking anti-dumping action as such against imports from other Member States but there are provisions in the Treaty of Rome to deal with unfair competition within the Common Market.

The results

21 Between 1959 and the present (May 1976) 139 anti-dumping or countervailing investigations have been announced by successive Governments. Of this total:

18 applications have been withdrawn by applicants before the completion of the investigations;
27 investigations have led to the imposition of substantive anti-dumping or countervailing duties;
27 investigations have been concluded by the adoption of remedies other than anti-dumping or countervailing duties (usually price undertakings);
8 are being handled by the European Commission;
10 investigations are still in progress.

The remainder were rejected after investigation.

22 More recently out of the 42 investigations undertaken since the beginning of 1973:

2 applications were withdrawn;
8 substantive duties were imposed;
9 price undertakings were accepted;
8 are being handled by the European Commission;
1 investigation has been temporarily suspended;
10 investigations are still in progress.

In the remaining four cases the application was rejected. At present, in addition to the cases still under investigation, the Department is working on a great number of inquiries and approaches, some of which may well lead to formal investigations. Applications and inquiries tend to be concentrated in periods of recession and the above figures largely reflect activity during the past 12 months.

Conclusion

23 The Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969, and the Gatt Anti-Dumping Code, to which the UK is a party, control in considerable detail what anti-dumping action may be taken and what is needed to prove a case of dumping. Proving an anti-dumping case is not always or even usually easy, and although it is the Department's responsibility to prove it, it necessarily relies heavily on data from industry itself. It involves considerable work both for the Department and for the applicant. But the powers are there for the protection of UK industry against unfair competition and it is the Department's practice and intention to use them vigorously for that purpose.

Edmund Dell's statement on Unctad IV

Edmund Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, made the following statement in the House of Commons on 8 June on the recent Unctad Conference in Nairobi.

'The fourth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development met in Nairobi, Kenya, from 5-31 May.

'The Conference adopted resolutions by consensus on a number of matters including commodity policy, developing country debt, the transfer of technology and certain institutional issues. In addition a resolution was adopted by majority vote on transnational corporations, and a resolution on the development of international mechanisms to facilitate resource development in developing countries, including the proposal to consider the establishment of an International Resources Bank, was rejected in a vote by a narrow margin.

'The major achievement was that consensus was reached on a resolution on commodities, the central issue before the Conference. The resolution provides for a programme of negotiation, within a defined timetable, on products which have been identified as of particular interest, to the developing countries. I welcome this decision, which I sought in my opening statement for the United Kingdom at the outset of the Conference. It will give concrete shape to proposals put forward in Kingston a year ago by my Rt. Hon. Friend, the Member for Huyton.

'The resolution also provides for preparatory meetings in relation to a common fund for buffer stock financing, to be followed by a negotiating Conference, not later than March 1977, which will be open to all the members of Unctad. It is clearly right that this proposal should be studied further. The resolution recognises that there are differences of view on the objectives and modalities of a common fund, and in common with a number of other developed countries, we have made it clear that our acceptance of the resolution is on the basis of that understanding.

'I am glad to say that consensus was also reached on debt on the basis of a proposal which we had put forward in the course of negotiations. The resolution adopted by the Conference confirms the willingness of the developed countries to consider quickly and constructively requests for help from my individual developing country finding itself in difficulties. It also provides for work to be done internationally in existing fora to establish from past and current experience what features might give flexible guidance for future operations.

'We approached the Conference with a full recognition of the serious problems which face the developing countries and of the contribution which the Conference could make in seeking ways to alleviate those problems. Despite the differences of view which remained on certain points, I believe that the Conference has made a substantial contribution towards that objective. For our part, we shall play a full and constructive role in the programme of international work which the Conference has set in hand.

'An account of all the issues dealt with by the Conference will be published in a White Paper as soon as is practicable this summer. And I am placing in the Library the text of the various resolutions which were adopted by consensus or voted on together with an explanatory statement made by my Hon Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Overseas Development, on the resolution on commodities.'

Czechoslovak sugar beet harvesters: anti-dumping investigation in abeyance

The Department of Trade announced on 6 April 1976 that it had accepted for investigation an application under the Customs Duties (Dumping and Subsidies) Act 1969 against the alleged dumping of sugar beet harvesters from Czechoslovakia.

Following discussions with the importers and with the UK industry, the Department has decided to put the investigation into abeyance for 12 months until the end of May 1977. This decision has been taken at the request of the applicant, and because the present and anticipated volume of imports does not appear to constitute a threat of material injury to the UK industry.

Imports will be monitored during the 12-month period, and it will be open to the applicant to request resumption of the investigation should the import situation appear to warrant it.

Notices to Importers

Issued by the Department of Trade, Import Licensing Branch, Charles House, 375 Kensington High Street, London W14 8QH.

No. 1559: Imports of cotton yarn from Spain: continuation of arrangements

Notice to Importers No. 1540, published in *Trade and Industry* on 23 January 1976, gave details of the quota established for imports of certain cotton yarn from Spain for the first half of 1976. The EEC Commission has now authorised the UK to extend for the remainder of 1976 its quantitative restrictions on the commodity, and the quota level established for the second half of the year is as in the table opposite.

Tariff heading	Description	Quota 1 July to 31 December 1976
55.05	Cotton yarn, not put up for retail sale	1,319 tonnes

Allocations of the quota will be made on the basis of the statements of past trade which were submitted by importers earlier in the year in response to Notice to Importers No. 1529, published in *Trade and Industry* on 2 January 1976, and import licences will be sent to the importers concerned.

Inquiries: Import Licensing Branch, tel. 01-603 4644 ext. 268.

An announcement about future arrangements for imports from Portugal of cotton yarn and man-made fibre fabric will be made as soon as possible.

Tariff and Trade Notices

Sweden

Regulations on metal release from food utensils. The Swedish Product Control Board has issued regulations governing the permitted levels of metal release from household articles used in the handling of foodstuffs.

Details of these regulations are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

France

Textile imports: revised regulations. There has been a series of bilateral agreements between the EEC and Hong Kong, South Korea, Japan, Singapore, Macao and Malaysia on the importation of textile products of wool, cotton, and synthetic or artificial fibres from these countries. The French *Official Journal*, 13 May 1976, publishes a notice to importers which sets out in detail the revised regulations for the import of textile goods from each of the countries in question, when consigned direct from the country of origin and when consigned from another country. Copies of the French text can be sent on request or seen at Export House. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 423/7174/408/482.

Spain

Bicycle tyres and inner tubes: duty suspended. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 3 June 1976, published royal decree 1252/76 announcing the suspension of import duty on bicycle tyres and inner tubes of rubber, tariff headings 40.11.B.3 and 40.11.C.2.D. The suspension will be in force for three-months period from 3 June 1976.

Cocoa products: home compensation tax modifications. The Spanish *State Gazette*, 3 June 1976 published royal decree 1250/76 announcing modifications (valid from 3 June) to the home compensation tax on the following sub-headings:

Tariff no.		Description	Home compensation tax
18.01		Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted:	
	A	Raw	5%
	B	Roasted	6%
18.02		Cocoa shells, husks, skins and waste:	
	A	Containing less than 1 per cent of fat	6%
	B	Other	7%
18.03		Cocoa paste (in bulk or in blocks), whether or not defatted:	
	A	Containing more than 20 per cent of fat	10%
	B	Containing 20 per cent or less of fat	11%
18.04		Cocoa butter (fat or oil)	11%
18.05		Cocoa powder, unsweetened	11%
18.06		Chocolate and other food preparations containing cocoa	13%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Customs tariff modifications. *Trade and Industry* 28 May, page 560, referred to a custom modification under tariff numbers 73.15 E7 Hoop and strip and 73.15 E8 Plates and sheets. The thickness given against b should read 'under 9mm.' and not 9mm. or less. This applies to all four entries under the headings. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 462/471/472/473.

Further information

In many cases further information on the notices published on these pages is available to British exporters from the Department of Trade. The main branches concerned are: Commercial Relations and Exports (CRE) Divisions, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET (tel: direct dialling); and Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Data Branch, Export Services and Promotions Division, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel: 01-248 5757). In each case, the relevant information source is indicated at the end of the notice by its initials (OTAR or CRE) and, in the case of OTAR, the telephone extension. In the Tariff and Trade Notices section countries are grouped by continents as far as possible; they are listed alphabetically on the contents page.

Israel

Import duty amendments. The Israeli authorities have announced the following amendment to the rate of import duty on BN 91.09:

BN no.	Description	Rate of import duty		
			EEC	
		MFN	6	3
91.09	Watch cases within heading 91.01 and parts of watch cases			
1000	Special for watches designed for blind-men and released before 1.4.77	exempt	exempt	exempt
9900	Other	15% b.n.l.t. 0.45 per unit	13.5% b.n.l.t. 0.40 per unit	15% b.n.l.t. 0.45 per unit

b.n.l.t. = but not less than.
units in import duty rates = Israeli pounds.
6 = Original members of EEC.
3 = New members of EEC.

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 458/461.

Zaire

Typhoid outbreak. The British Embassy in Kinshasa has reported that a typhoid outbreak of several weeks is now giving rise to considerable concern. British businessmen intending to visit Zaire in the near future are strongly advised to obtain vaccination before their departure. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5334.

Liberia

Spirits and cigarettes: duty changes. Customs circular 9 (1976), dated 10 May, has announced an increase on duty on spirits and cigarettes imported into Liberia. The new rates, effective from 28 April 1976, are as follows.

OTAR: help for exporters

Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section (OTAR), Export Services and Promotion Division, Department of Trade, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757) can give you directly, or through your Regional Office, up-to-date information on the tariffs and customs regulations of overseas countries, import licensing regulations and restrictions including import quotas; certificate of origin; consular invoices and fees; labelling and marking requirements; foodstuffs, drugs and pharmaceuticals and the imports of samples. It also provides information, in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, on health regulations for livestock, meat, animal products and plants and seeds. In short, OTAR can help on almost all legislation which affects the entry of British goods into overseas countries.

Inquiries which concern the countries of more than one sub-section (excluding inquiries involving only EEC countries) should be made to OTAR's co-ordination sub-section on 01-248 5757 extension 452 or 454.

For information in respect of specific countries,

ring

01-248 5757 ext.

▼ Sub-section A
Co-ordination of EEC inquiries; common customs tariff (CCT); Denmark; France and overseas territories; Greece; Turkey

408 EEC legislation on tariff and non-tariff barriers relative to community trade
482 EEC common agricultural policy – aspects affecting exports
7174 Denmark (incl. Faroe Islands and Greenland)
423 France and overseas departments, French overseas territories
439 Greece (incl. Dodecanese Islands), Turkey

Sub-section B
Benelux; Dutch overseas territories; Irish Republic; Italy; Federal Republic of Germany; Eastern Bloc; China

467 Federal Republic of Germany
288 Netherlands, Netherland Antilles, Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Eustatius, St. Martin (Dutch), Saba, Surinam, Yugoslavia
466 Irish Republic, Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, USSR
288 Belgium, Luxembourg
466 Italy

Sub-section C
Efta: Portuguese overseas territories; N. Africa and Israel

459 Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland
458 Israel, Egypt
460 Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde Islands, Macao, Principe, Sao Tome, Timor
461 Morocco, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria

Sub-section D
South and Central America

476 Brazil, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama
474 Argentina, Chile, British Antarctica Territory and Antarctica, Cuba, Haiti, Uruguay, Bolivia, Columbia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Venezuela, Falkland Islands

Sub-section E
Australasia and South East Asia

401 New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, W. Samoa, Chatham Island, Cook Island, Niue Island, Tokelau Isles
468 Australia, Solomon Islands, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Islands (Indian Ocean), Nauru, Papua New Guinea, New Hebrides, Philippines
469 Brunei, Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Tonga, Gilbert Islands (incl. Ocean Island, Phoenix Island, Line Island), Tuvalu, Norfolk Island, Pitcairn Island

Sub-section G
Middle and Far East

420 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Japan, N. Korea, S. Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Taiwan, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen PDR
475 Cambodia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Laos, Lebanon, Lower Gulf States (Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates), Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, N. Vietnam, S. Vietnam

Sub-section F
North America; Bahamas; West Indies, etc.

7312 Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize (British Honduras), Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands
455 Canada
456 USA (incl. Alaska, Caroline Island, Guam, Hawaii, Mariana Islands, Marshall Islands), Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Samoa (US), Virgin Islands (US), Wake Island

Sub-section H
Spain and possessions: Mediterranean; Africa; Sri Lanka

462 Spain, Spanish Sahara, Ceuta and Melilla, Andorra
471 Ascension Island, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cyprus, Gibraltar, Sri Lanka, S. Africa (with Lesotho, Swaziland, S. W. Africa and Botswana), Somali, St. Helena, Tristan da Cunha, Maldive Islands, Malta, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles
472 Burundi, Cameroon, Canary Islands, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), The People's Republic of Benin, Ethiopia and Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Malagasy Republic, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Upper Volta, Zaire, Equatorial Guinea
473 The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Nigeria, Rhodesia, Sierra Leone, Zambia

Addresses of ECGD offices

The Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) is a Government Department providing export credit insurance for United Kingdom exporters and insurance against political risks for new investments overseas. Although credit insurance is its main service to exporters the Department offers them a number of others. Firstly the Bank Guarantee scheme enables exporters who are eligible to obtain export finance from their bank at a special low rate. Major projects carried out by British firms in overseas countries can be financed by the buyer credit technique which gives the exporter the bulk of his payment on shipment of the goods. Similar to this is the line of credit facility which extends the buyer credit principle to include contracts often with an individual value as low as £10,000. ECGD now insures 35 per cent of all UK exports. For full details of all ECGD services contact Publicity Branch, ECGD, Aldermanbury House, Aldermanbury, London EC2P 2EL, telephone 01-606 6699 extension 258, telex 883601, or get in touch with one of the offices listed below.

Central London

London, EC1 to EC4, WC1 and 2, W1 and SW1.

D. G. Hake, Waverley House, 7-12 Noel Street, London W1V 3PB. Tel. 01-437 2292, Telex 24105.

South London

London SE, SW2–20 and W2–14, Kent, Surrey (excluding the administrative district of Spelthorne), East and West Sussex, the eastern part of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and the Channel Isles.

T. W. Hawes, 320 Purley Way, Croydon, Surrey CR0 4XJ. Tel. 01-686 9921. Telex 946998.

North London

London N, NW, E, the southern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, the Slough, Burnham and Datchet area of Berkshire and the Spelthorne district of Surrey.

C. W. Gentry, 593–599 High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SW. Tel. 01-808 4570. Telex 263615.

Belfast

The six counties of Northern Ireland.

R. H. Forsyth, River House, High Street, Belfast BT1 BE. Tel. 0232 31743. Telex 74577.

Birmingham

Leicester, Nottinghamshire, Salop, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, the southern part of Derbyshire and that part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Worcestershire.

F. Wilmot, Colmore Centre, 115 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 3SB. Tel. 021-233 1771. Telex 33132

Bristol

Dyfed, Powys, Gwent, West, Mid and South Glamorgan, Gloucester, Avon, Wiltshire, Oxon, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. That part of Hereford and Worcester formerly known as Herefordshire, Berkshire except the Slough, Burnham and Datchet areas and the western part of Hampshire.

R. A. Bounds, Robinson Building, 1 Redcliffe Street, Bristol BS1 6NP. Tel. 0272 299971. Telex 44248.

Cambridge

Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Norfolk, Northamptonshire and Suffolk, the northern parts of Essex, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the southern part of Lincolnshire including the City of Lincoln.

H. Watson, Three Crowns House, 72-80 Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 1NJ Tel. 0223 68801. Telex 81624.

Glasgow

Scotland and the Outer Isles.

F. R. Burge, Fleming House, 134 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6TL. Tel. 041-332 8707. Telex 77130.

Leeds

Durham, Tyne & Wear, Northumberland, Cleveland, North, West and South Yorkshire, Humberside and the northern part of Lincolnshire.

W. Ford, West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA. Tel. 0532 450631. Telex 55125.

Manchester

Gwynedd, Clwyd, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cumbria, the northern part of Derbyshire and Isle of Man.

R. H. K. Hughes, Elisabeth House, St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 4AJ. Tel. 061-228 3621. Telex 667756.

New York

In the United States of America exporters can obtain assistance from the Department's resident Representative for the USA and Canada.

J. K. Sedman c/o British Trade Development Office, 150 East 58th Street, New York 10022 USA. Tel. 212-593 2258. Telex 420543.

Tariff no.	Tariff description	Rate of duty (US $)
22.09 A	Whisky	$25.36/gal plus 95c/gal for each 1% alcoholic content in excess of 43% PVA
B	Gin (including Geneva)	$24.60/gal plus 95c/gal for each 1% of alcoholic content in excess of 43% PVA
C	Rum	$24.60/gal
D	Spirits obtained by stilling wine or grape must eg Cognac, Brandy and Armagnac	$26.87/gal
E	Vodka	$24.60/gal
F	Liquers	$24.60/gal
G	Other, for example cordials and other beverages which have been sweetened or flavoured with aromatic substance, cocktails bitters, and other potable mixture containing alcohol	$24.60/gal
24.02 B	Cigarettes	$2.25 per 100 sticks or 70% which ever is the higher

No further information is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 473/471/472/462.

South Africa

Import control: permit issues. The South African Minister of Economic Affairs announced on 8 June that a second round allocation of import permits equivalent to 30 per cent of the total permits issued for 1975 has been granted for the following classes or categories of goods:

1 consumer goods
2 clothing
3 confectionery
4 alcoholic beverages inluding whisky.

This brings the total permits issued for the current year for these items to 70 per cent of last year's total.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Sales duty. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 21 May 1976.

R857 Item 147.00. The effect of this notice is that the sales duty on certain motor vehicles with a value for sales duty purposes exceeding R3,475 but not exceeding R.3,650 is reduced from 16.5% to 10% with retrospective effect from 12 April 1976.

R858 Item: 470.00, 470.01, 470.02, 480.00, 480.05, 480.10, 480.15, 480.20, 480.25, 480.30, 480.35, 490.00, 490.03, 409.05, 490.10, 490.11, 490.12, 490.13, 490.14, 490.15, 490.20, 490.25, 490.30, 490.35, 490.40, 490.50, 490.60, 490.90. The provisions in respect of the temporary admission of goods under rebate of the full duty have been restated and extended.

R859 Item: 522.06. The provision for a refund of duty on bonafide samples for use in the taking of orders and imported by a representative of the supplier, upon export of such samples, provided export takes place within 12 months of the date of importation is withdrawn as suitable provision for a rebate of duty on these samples is now made.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

Tariff changes. The following amendments were published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 28 May 1976.

R899 B.N. 70.20. The rate of duty on fabrics woven from multifilament glass fibre rovings is increased from 10% to 20%.

R900 B.N.85.20. The rates of duty on certain filament lamps are amended.

INDUSTRIAL REBATES

R901 Item 311.10. B.N.51.01.(1). The provisions for a rebate of duty on yarn of man-made fibres (continuous) exceeding 1400 dtex with discontinuous or broken colours for the manufacture of carpets and mats, is withdrawn. (2). The extent of rebate on the remaining yarns, is amended from full duty less 5% to full duty.

GENERAL REBATES

R902 Item 407.00, 407.04, 407.06, 460.25, 490.03.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 471/472/473/462.

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Tariff application. Customs Tariff Application List 18/76 published in the South African *Government Gazette*, 11 June 1976, contains an application to the Board of Trade and Industries for increase in duty on the following:

1 plastic rainwear classifiable under tariff subheadings 39.07.50.10 and 39.07.50.90, and
2 titanium oxides and titanium white classifiable under tariff subheadings 28.25 and 32.07.30 respectively.

British trade organisations thought to be interested in the application are being informed. Any British firm affected which wishes to make representations to the South African Board of Trade and Industries and belongs to a trade organisation should, therefore, first contact its own trade association.

If any firm proposes to make independent representations to the South African authorities and requires further information concerning the application, it should address inquiries to CRE: 01-215 5274.

Malaysia

Customs duties amendments. The Malaysian Government has passed the following Customs Duties Amendment Orders:

Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 9) Order 1976 amends the first schedule to the Customs Duties Order 1968 by deleting heading numbers 84.61 210 and 84.61 290 and all details that follow and inserting the following:

Heading no.	Description	Unit of quantity	Federation common tariff
84.61	Taps, cocks, valves and similar appliances, for pipes, boiler shells, tanks, vats and the like including pressure reducing valves and thermostatically controlled valves:		
	of copper or copper alloy:		
201	inner tube valves and valves for tubeless tyres	No	25% of 20 ct. each whichever is the higher
	other:		
210	of 1 in. or below in internal diameter	No	$1.00
290	of over 1 in in internal diameter	No	Nil

Customs Duties (Penang) (Amendment) (No. 6) Order 1976 amends the schedule to the Customs Duties (Penang) Order 1973 to make the customs duty above on 84.61 201 also applicable to Penang.

Customs Duty (Amendment) (No. 10) Order 1976 amends the first schedule to the Customs Duties Order 1968 by substituting for the word 'Nil' appearing in column 4 against heading number 40.12 100, the figure and words '10 cts each'.

Note: 40.12 – Hygienic and pharmaceutical articles (including teats), of unhardened vulcanised rubber, with or without fittings of hardened rubber.
40.12.100 Condoms.

Customs Duties (Penang) (Amendment) (No. 7) Order 1976 amends the schedule to the Customs Duties (Penang) Order 1973 to make the above duty also applicable to Penang.

Customs Duties (Amendment) (No. 11) Order 1976 amends the first schedule to the Customs Duties Order 1968 by deleting heading numbers 85.18 110, 85.18 120, 85.18 130 and 85.18 900 and all details that follow and inserting the following:

Heading no.	Description	Unit of quantity	Federation common tariff
85.18	Electrical capacitors (condensers) fixed or variable:		
110	Less than 3.5 mfd	No	25%
120	3.5 mfd but less than 8 mfd	No.	25%
130	8 mfd and above	No	Nil
900	Parts	No	25%

Customs Duties (Penang) (Amendment) (No. 8) Order 1976 amends the schedule to the Customs Duties (Penang) Order 1973 by deleting the heading number 85.18 130 so that the i... ort duty is also nil in Penang.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
Tel. Direct dialling (see end of each notice)

OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section
Export Data Branch
Export Services and Promotions Division
Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
Tel. 01-248 5757 (extension at end of each notice)

No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Import control. The Malaysian Government has passed the following import control measures:

Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment) (No. 10) Order 1976 amends the first schedule to the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) Order 1973 by inserting the following:

Heading no.	Description of goods	Country
25.07 200	Fuller's earth	All countries
38.08 000	Ion-exchange resins	All countries

Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment) (No. 11) Order 1976 amends the first schedule by inserting the following:

Heading no.	Description of goods	Country
38.11 319	2, 4D-amine	All countries

The first schedule lists goods prohibited from import into the Federation without an import licence.

Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment) (No. 12) Order 1976 amends the second schedule to the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) Order 1973 by deleting the heading numbers 29.34 000 2-chloroethylphosphonic acid) and 38.19 900 catalysts containing iron oxide, and all details that follow.

Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) (Amendment) (No. 13) Order 1976 amends the third, fourth, and sixth schedules to the Customs (Prohibition of Imports) (Temporary Protective Measure) Order 1973 by inserting the following:

Heading no.	Description	Country
73.31 900	Ringspikes	All countries

The second schedule lists goods prohibited from entry into West Malaysia without an import licence. The third, fourth and sixth schedules list those goods prohibited from entry into Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan respectively, East Malaysia, without an import licence.

No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Metrication. Malaysia is going metric – the metric division of the Ministry of Trade and Industry in Malaysia is working out standard metric sizes for essential household goods. By 1977 most imperial pack sizes for products will have been phased out and certain products are already being produced in metric packs.

The metric division has announced that the following products will go metric before the end of the year: soft drinks, soap/detergents, printing and duplicating ink, liquified petroleum gas, sugar, butter, ghee, full cream powdered milk, chilli and tomato sauce, fruit juices, cordials, paints, petroleum products, cement, edible and cooking oil, margarine, fresh milk and ice cream.

No further details are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Australia

Fine papers: temporary protection. The Department of Industry and Commerce in Australia has received a request for temporary protection against imports of fine papers falling within items 48.01.921 and 48.07.620 of the customs tariff.

Interested parties either in support of or in opposition to the request may submit their views to the Department for consideration. Requests for temporary protection are initially received and considered by the Department. They may be referred later to the Temporary Assistance Authority for inquiry and report within 30 days of the date of the reference.

Any temporary protection which may be accorded the goods by the Government after receipt of the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority will be in the nature of a holding action pending government consideration of the question of long term protection for the local industry following inquiry and report by the Industries Assistance Commission.

Exporters should note that it has been made clear that, should the need for urgent action emerge from these inquiries, goods ordered but not cleared for home consumption at the date of the announcement, will be subject to the terms of the action. Australian importers therefore have been urged to exercise caution in placing orders overseas and in entering into financial commitments on such orders as special consideration may not be given to outstanding commitments should action be taken by the Government.

Evidence must be formally submitted at the public hearing, either by a nominated representative of the firm or trade association concerned or through the Australian British Trade Association, 21Tothill Street, London SW1 (01-799 7447). who will represent UK interests if authorised. The Association charges a fee for its services, the amount varying according to the work entailed in the preparation of a submission and whether or not the interested party is a member. UK firms or trade associations intending to submit evidence should advise the Secretary, Industries Assistance Commission, PO Box 80, Canberra, Act 2600. Australia as soon as possible. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5319. Ref. CRE 289/76.

Certain files and rasps: temporary import restrictions. Following the report by the Temporary Assistance Authority of 31 March 1976 on files and rasps, the Australian Government has accepted the finding of the Authority that urgent action is necessary.

It has therefore announced temporary import restrictions on certain files and rasps falling within tariff sub-heading 82-03.3. The restrictions do not apply to milled tooth files, round blunt chainsaw files, ampoule files, 'Surform' tools or those files and rasps currently admissible under by-law. Total imports of those subject to restriction will be limited for the 1976 calender year to 75,000 dozen.

It is not proposed to apply quantitative restrictions to files and rasps of New Zealand origin.

A reference on the need for import restrictions beyond 1976 has

Registered trade marks

The lists of tariff, customs and import regulation changes in overseas countries published in this section of *Trade and Industry* sometimes contain words which are registered trade marks in the United Kingdom. So far as is practicable, all lists of goods are checked before publication from this point of view. Items which fall into this category are preceded by the letters rtm. Readers should note that this prefix signifies that the words are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom but that in the present context are assumed to refer generally to products of the descriptions stated in brackets. While every attempt will be made to ensure that the scrutiny is complete, the lists may contain other words which are registered as trade marks in the United Kingdom or in other countries but which it has not been possible to identify.

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been sent to the Industries Assistance Commission, which has been asked to submit its report by 29 October 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Spectacle and sunglass frames, sunglasses: tariff changes. The Australian Government's decisions on recommendations made by the Industries Assistance Commission have been published. Initially a rate of 35 per cent will apply to goods previously subject to import restrictions and parts for those goods. This rate will phase to 30 per cent after 18 months and to 25 per cent after a further 18 months. Goods that were not subject to import restrictions will be dutiable at 25 per cent. Alterations to the tariff, with effect from 28 May 1976, are as follows:

Tariff no.	Description of goods	General	Preference
Omit items 90.03 and 90.04, substitute the following items:			
90.03	Frames and mountings, and parts therefor, for spectacles, pince-nez, lorgnettes, goggles and the like:		
90.03.1	Spectacle (including sunglass) frames, and parts therefor	To and including 27 November 1977 – 35%; From and including 28 November 1977 to and including 27 May 1979 – 30%; From and including 28 May 1979 – 25%	25%
90.03.9	Other	25%	25%
90.04	Spectacles, pince-nez, lorgnettes, goggles and the like, corrective, protective or other:		
90.04.1	Spectacles fitted with non-powered eye-pieces, not being safety eyewear (including sporting goggles)	To and including 27 November 1977 – 35%; From and including 28 November 1977 to and including 27 May 1979 – 30%; From and including 28 May 1979 – 25%	25%
90.04.9	Other	25%	25%

Inquires: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Injection moulding machinery; welding consumables and flux cored solder; precision ground steel ball bearings; and filament, fluorescent and other discharge lamps: tariff changes. Following IAC reports on these goods, the Australian Government has announced the following tariff changes, operative from 11 May 1976:

Tariff no.	Description of goods	General	Preferential
Omit sub-item 51.04.5, substitute the following sub-item:			
51.04.5	Fabrics, not being goods falling within a preceding sub-item of this item, as follows: (a) wholly of polyethylene or polypropylene or polyethylene and polypropylene; (b) containing more than 50% by weight of polyethylene or polypropylene or polyethylene and polypropylene, calculated by reference to the weight of man-made fibres in the fabric	To and including 31 December 1976 – 30% or, if higher, $0.10 per m²; from and including 1 January 1977 – 22.5%	To and including 31 December 1976 – 30% or, if higher, $0.10 per m²; from and including 1 January 1977 – 22.5%
After sub-item 60.05.3 insert the following sub-item:			
60.05.4	Ornamental trimmings in the piece	6%	Free
After sub-item 60.06.2 insert the following sub-item:			
60.06.3	Fabrics laminated with expanded or foam rubber and articles made therefrom:		
60.06.31	Fabrics	30%	19%
60.06.32	Diving dress	6%	Free
60.06.33	Articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not being goods falling within a preceding paragraph of this sub-item	43%	17%
60.06.39	Other	30%	9%
Omit sub-note (a) of note 1 to Chapter 64, substitute the following sub-note: (a) footwear, without applied soles, that: (i) are made of knitted or crocheted textile fabric and fall within item 60.03; or (ii) are made of other textile fabric (except felt or bonded fibre or similar bonded yarn fabric) and fall within item 62.05;			
Omit item 69.13, substitute the following item:			
69.13	Statuettes and other ornaments, and articles of personal adornment; articles of furniture:		
69.13.1	Goods, as follows: (a) articles of personal adornment; (b) lamps; (c) lamp bases with electrical fittings; (d) ornaments, including ornamental articles of furniture, but not including: (i) monumental or other statuary figures; (ii) figures of a kind ordinarily used in the household; (iii) vases, jardinieres or like bowls or containers; or (iv) lamp bases without electrical fittings	34%	21%
69.13.2	Goods, not being goods falling within sub-item 69.13.1, as follows: (a) monumental and other statuary figures; (b) figures of a kind ordinarily used in the household; (c) articles of porcelain or china (including biscuit porcelain and parian)	24%	9%
69.13.9	Other	30%	13%
After sub-item 74.19.5 insert the following sub-item:			
74.19.6	Sprinkler heads for fire extinguisher systems	28%	13%
Omit item 83.15, substitute the following item:			
83.15	Wire, rods, tubes, plates, electrodes and similar products, of base metal or of metal carbides, coated or cored with flux material, of a kind used for soldering, brazing, welding or deposition of metal or of metal carbides; wire and rods, of agglomerated base metal powder, used for metal spraying:		
83.15.1	Welding rods; flux cored tubular welding electrodes	15%	15%
83.15.9	Other	5%	5%
After sub-item 84.30.2 insert the following sub-item:			
84.30.3	Of a kind used for the pickling of meat, comprising brine injection guns connected to a pump	To and including 22 November 1977 – 30%; from and including 23 November 1977 – 26%	To and including 22 November 1977 – 30%; from and including 23 November 1977 – 26%
Omit sub-item 84.59.8, substitute the following sub-item:			
84.59.8	Injection moulding machines designed for the production of moulded artificial plastic goods by the process of injecting artificial plastic materials into dies	55%	35%
Omit sub-item 84.62.2, substitute the following sub-item:			
84.62.2	Precision ground steel ball bearings, but not including parts therefor falling within sub-item 84.62.3	28%	21%
Omit paragraph 85.12.92, substitute the following paragraph:			
85.12.92	Instantaneous or storage water heaters (including urns), not being goods falling within the preceding paragraph of this sub-item; wash boilers; space heating appliances	20%	20%
Omit sub-item 85.16.2, substitute the following sub-item:			
85.16.2	Landing lights of a kind used solely or principally upon airfields for night flying	5%	5%
Omit item 85.20, substitute the following item:			
85.20	Electric filament lamps and electric discharge lamps (including infra-red and ultra-violet lamps); arc lamps; electrically ignited photographic flash bulbs:		
85.20.1	Filament lamps of a kind commonly used in motor vehicles for lighting purposes	25%	25%
85.20.2	Fluorescent discharge lamps	15%	15%
85.20.9	Other	5%	5%

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 468/469/401.

Tonga

Processed animal fodder: duty amendment. The Government of Tonga has announced the following amendment to schedule 1 of the Customs Duty Act 1974.

Tariff no.	Tariff description	Commonwealth preferential tariff	General tariff
2302	Processed animal fodder (livestock feed)	Free	Free

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 469/401/468.

Canada

Budget measures. The following budget changes were announced by the Canadian Minister of Finance on 25 May 1976:

Effective in 1976 taxation year

Limits raised 50 per cent on amount of profits subject to low rate of tax for small business.

Maximum deductions for child care doubled.

Deduction for disabled taxpayer made transferable.

Maximum annual deductions under deferred-income plans increased about 40 per cent.

Various technical changes in the Income Tax Act.

Effective from 26 May 1976

Temporary tariff cuts on $1.5 billion of imports extended to 30 June 1977.

Changes in capital cost allowance rates, limit on capital cost allowance deductions for equipment acquired and leased after budget night.

Federal sales tax removed from energy-saving items.

Two-year write-off for energy-efficient equipment.

Special excise tax of $100 on air conditioners for automobiles, station wagons, vans and smaller trucks.

Effective from 1 August 1976

First stage increases in special excise tax on heavier motor vehicles.

Effective from 1977 taxation year

Changes in tax treatment of charities.

Further information is available. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5397.

Exports and Imports Permits Act. The Canadian Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce has announced that a new procedure was introduced on 1 June 1976 for the control of goods regulated by the Exports and Imports Permits Act. Copies of the announcement are available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 455/456/457.

Regulations for in vitro diagnostic products. The Canadian Department of Health and Welfare has issued information letter 467 stating that it is evident that in vitro diagnostic products are either drugs or devices within the application of the Food and Drugs Act. The Assistant Deputy Minister proposes to recommend that regulations under the Food and Drugs Act be developed which will make in vitro diagnostic products subject to the Medical Devices Regulations. Comments should be sent by 7 July to the Director, Bureau of Medical Devices, Environmental Health Directorate, Health Protection Branch, Tunney's Pasture, Ottawa, Ontario K1A OL2. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 455/456/457.

Radiation Emitting Devices Regulations. The Canadian Department of Health and Welfare has issued information letters amending Radiation Emitting Devices Regulations.

Demonstration laser devices. Letter 468 on demonstration laser devices announces that the Governor in Council proposes to make amendments to the regulations, establishing standards of design. Comments should be made by 9 July to the Director, Radiation Protection Bureau, Environmental Health Directorate, Health Protection Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa, Ontario K1A IC1. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext 455/456/457.

Demonstration-type gas discharge devices. Amendments have been made to the regulations establishing standards of design, construction and functioning for demonstration type gas discharge devices (information letter 469). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 455/456/457.

Baggage inspection X-ray devices. Amendments have been made to the regulations establishing standards of design, construction and functioning for baggage inspection X-ray devices (information letter 470). Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 455/456/457.

United States

Air pollution from motor vehicle engines. The *Federal Register* dated 24 May 1976 published proposed details of air pollution from heavy duty engines for 1979 and later year models.

Comments (four copies) by 23 August 1976 to EPA Office of Mobile Source Air Pollution Control, 401 M Street, SW, Washington DC 20460.

Fuel economy of motor vehicles. The *Federal Register* dated 21 May 1976 published details of proposed rules of fuel economy regulations for 1977 and later model motor cars.

Comments (four copies) by 21 June 1976, to EPA, Office of Mobile Source Air Pollution Control, 401 M Street, SW, Washington DC 20460.

A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Warranty on consumer products. The *Federal Register* dated 1 June 1976 published a proposal to establish the deduction of value when a refund of the purchase price was demanded under the Warranty Act.

Comments (five copies) by 2 August 1976 to Special Assistant Director of Rulemaking, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, Washington DC 20580.

A copy of the text is available. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 456/457/7312.

Modifications to generalised system of preferences. *Trade and Industry* of 2 January 1976 announced the implementation of the United States generalised system of preferences, whereby a range of goods enter the USA free of import duty from a number of (mainly developing) countries. From time to time, the US Trade Policy Staff Committee accepts for review requests from domestic interests for modification of the list of eligible articles or countries. If sufficient grounds are shown, the President may withdraw, suspend or limit the application of duty-free treatment accorded to any article or country. British exporters requiring information about the eligibility of products or countries should contact OTAR ext. 456/457/7312 quoting if possible the US tariff heading numbers under which products enter the USA.

Mexico

Tariff alterations. A decree published in Mexico's *Diario Oficial*, 20 May 1976, made extensive modifications to the customs tariff. Many headings have been cancelled, others have been added and some duties have been changed. The headings affected are as follows:

29.23	
29.25	
29.35	There have been extensive alterations to this heading
37.02	
37.07	
38.14	
39.03	
39.07	
73.18	
73.25	
84.17	
84.23	
85.01	There have been extensive alterations to this heading
90.01	
91.09	
97.01	

Details of the amended headings may be obtained from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

CRE Commercial Relations and Exports Divisions
Department of Trade
1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
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OTAR Overseas Tariffs and Regulations Section,
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Department of Trade
Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU
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Trinidad and Tobago

Revaluation. The Trinidad and Tobago Government has announced that from 27 May 1976 the TT dollar has been revalued and pegged at TT dollars 2.40 to the US dollar. Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5296.

Argentina

Prior deposits. Circular RC 623 of 5 March 1976 establishes that, from 8 March 1976, the exemptions from the 40 per cent prior deposit will be those goods laid down in Circular 371 of 31 January 1969 and its complementary Circular RC 376 of 15 May 1969. Many goods have therefore been removed by the Argentine authorities from the list of exemptions. A copy of the list is available from OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Maleic acids and anhydride. Argentine joint resolutions 40 and 103 of 16 March 1976 state that maleic acid and anhydride and their salts (BTN 29.15.01.38) no longer need prior import licences from the Secretaria de Desarrollo Industrial (Secretariat for Industrial Development). This requirement was brought about by decree 390/974. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Import suspension. Resolution 128/976 temporarily suspends the goods listed below until 31 December 1976.

BTN	Description
29.14.01.32	Trichloroacetic acid
29.14.01.33	Sodium trichloroacetate

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Brazil

Import incentives. The Brazilian authorities grant exemption from both import duty and manufactured goods tax in respect of complete functioning industrial complexes. Decree-law 1,236, of 28 August 1972, provides for such exemption under the following conditions:

a That the production of the plant, once installed in Brazil, is intended essentially for export;

b That the import has been approved by the President of the Republic, having first consulted the Ministers of Finance and of Industry and Commerce.

Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 476/474.

Chile

Exchange rates. The Chilean Central Bank announced the following revised exchange rates during May 1976:

4 May 'Bank' and 'Brokers' rates raised from Pesos ($)11.80 to $12.20 per US dollar.
13 May Both rates raised from $12.20 to $12.45 per US dollar.
17 May Both rates raised from $12.45 to $12.70 per US dollar.
25 May Both rates raised from $12.70 to $13.00 per US dollar.

Inquiries: CRE 01-215 5289.

Colombia

Temporary reduction in customs duty on certain machinery. Colombian Decree No. 958 of 17 May 1976 temporarily reduces the customs duty on goods in a number of headings in Chapter 84 of the customs tariff to 5 per cent *ad valorem* until 31 December 1976. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Additions to Free Import Licence List. Colombian Ministry of Finance Resolution 013 of 22 May 1976 adds a wide range of products to the Free Import Licence List. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Venezuela

Temporary duty exemptions. Venezuelan Decree 1,594 of 25 May 1976 extends until 31 December 1976 the temporary exemption from customs duty established by Decree 1,284 on the following goods:

Tariff no.	Description
87.01.01.00	Road tractors for semi-trailers (articulated trucks)
87.02.04.99.04	Trucks and vans of more than 4,000kg weight

Goods imported under this concession may not be transferred to another owner for three years from the date of the document of ownership issued by the Direccion del Transito Terrestre de la Ministerio de Comunicaciones. Inquiries: OTAR 01-248 5757 ext. 474/476.

Do you use statistics?

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) prepares a wide range of reliable and detailed figures on the United Kingdom. It is usually worth checking to see if what you want is available from them. You can see many Government statistical publications at your local public library, buy them from HMSO or refer to the comprehensive collection held at the Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4N 7HU (tel. 01-248 5757 ext. 368).

A free pamphlet, *Government Statistics – a brief guide to sources*, gives up-to-date contact points in Departments for further information. You can obtain copies from regional offices of the Department of Industry or by writing to the Central Statistical Office Press and Information Service, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

Statistics

The economy: selected indicators

Series expressed as index numbers and seasonally adjusted except where shown otherwise

	Gross domestic product (average estimate)	Consumers' expenditure	Fixed capital expenditure			Changes in stocks				Balance of payments		
			Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Distributive and service industries inc. shipping	Total	of which: Manufacturing industry	of which: Wholesalers	of which: Retailers	Current balance	Visible balance	Invisible balance
	at 1970 prices		at 1970 prices			at 1970 prices				at current prices		
Base of index	1970	1970	1970	1970	1970							
£m in base year		31,472	9,380	2,130	2,090							
Series in						£ million				£ million		
1970	100	100	100	100	100	425	325	68	−30	735	−25	760
1971	102	103	102	93	104	70	−148	52	−10	1,058	280	778
1972	104	109	104	82	117	−18	−175	48	−11	131	−702	833
1973	110	114	107	88	125	1064	396	102	334	−842	−2,332	1,490
1974	110	113	105	98	113	597	666	81	−68	−3,611	−5,264	1,653
1975	108	113	104	85	98	−652	−386	−111	6	−1,700	−3,200	1,500
1973 3rd qtr.	110	114	107	92	120	181	46	29	47	−256	−625	369
4th qtr	109	114	107	89	132	205	96	32	51	−373	−950	577
1974 1st qtr	106	112	108	97	112	−176	−31	18	−59	−849	−1,297	448
2nd qtr.	110	112	100	96	110	295	191	43	27	−959	−1,366	407
3rd qtr.	112	113	103	97	119	373	368	3	−14	−852	−1,253	401
4th qtr.	111	114	107	101	113	105	139	17	−22	−951	−1,348	397
1975 1st qtr.	110	115	106	93	101	−176	−4	−31	−57	−466	−850	384
2nd qtr.	107	112	102	86	100	−254	−112	−54	−52	−360	−681	321
3rd qtr.	107	111	107	82	101	−156	−204	−29	60	−571	−986	415
4th qtr.	108	112	101	80	92	−66	−66	4	55	−303	−683	380
1976 1st qtr.		113 pe		81 p	89 p		−5 p	16 p	−17 p	−60	−470	410
% change last 2 qtrs. on prev. 2 qtrs.	−0.8	+0.7	−0.2	−3.8	−10.0							
on a year earlier	−3.6	−1.9	−1.2	−17.0	−16.1							

	Industrial production		Personal expenditure		Prices and costs (NOT seasonally adjusted)					Labour (UK)			Visible Trade	
	Total all industries	Total manufacturing industries	Retail sales	Cars: new registrations	Retail prices	% increase on a year earlier	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: basic materials and fuel used	Wholesale prices: all manufacturing industry: manufactured products: home sales	Basic hourly wage rates of manual workers (all industries and services)	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: mid-month count	Unemployed excluding school leavers and adult students: % of total employees	Unfilled vacancies for adults: mid-month count	Export	Import
	at 1970 prices		at 1971 prices	monthly averages									On a balance of payments basis	
Base of index	1970	1970	1971		Jan. 1974		1970	1970	July 1972				1970	1970
£m in base year			15,895											
Series in				thousands						thousands		thousands	at 1970 prices	
1971	100.4	99.6	100.0	108.5	153.4†	9.4	104.6	109.0	88.9	775.8	3.4	130.9	106.7	104.2
1972	102.6	102.4	105.8	138.6	164.3†	7.1	109.2	114.8	101.4	855.0	3.7	147.3	106.6	116.3
1973	110.2	110.9	110.7	137.1	179.4†	9.2	144.5	123.2	115.6	611.0	2.6	307.0	121.8	133.9
1974	106.1	107.8	109.9	102.8	108.5	16.0	215.3	152.0	138.7	599.5#	2.6#	302.2#	130.1	135.2
1975	100.9	101.4	107.9	97.2	134.8	24.2	235.4	188.7	179.8	929.0	4.0	148.2#	124.9	125.6
1974 2nd qtr.	107.6	109.3	107.8	105	107.5	15.8	213.7	148.9	132.3	577.4	2.5	318.4	134.0	137.5
3rd qtr.	107.9	109.6	111.2	107	110.2	17.0	212.9	156.1	144.0	613.7	2.6	308.7	133.4	136.4
4th qtr.	104.7	105.6	111.3	97	115.1	18.2	222.1	164.9	153.5	..	..	..	126.5	133.0
1975 1st qtr.	104.6	106.1	111.3	108	122.0	20.3	220.9	176.0	163.6	737.9	3.2	..	128.9	125.4
2nd qtr.	99.8	100.0	108.9	94	133.6	24.3	225.6	186.3	176.3	847.4	3.6	164.4	122.6	122.2
3rd qtr.	99.5	99.9	105.5	103	139.4	26.6	239.3	193.4	185.5	1,000.0	4.3	133.6	120.0	127.4
4th qtr.	99.8	99.8	105.8	85	144.2	25.3	256.0	199.1	193.8	1,132.1	4.9	113.6	128.3	127.2
1976 1st qtr.	101.1 p	101.7 p	107.3	106	149.4	22.5	266.1	206.9	205.4	1,223.2	5.2	115.5	132.1	123.8
1975 Apr.	101.1	101.4	120.0	95	129.1	21.7	222.9	182.5	170.1	798.3	3.4	180.8	114.5	124.0
May	99.1	99.1	103.7	95	134.5	25.0	226.2	187.3	176.4	850.3	3.6	163.3	133.0	119.9
June	99.1	99.4	104.1	91	137.1	26 1	227.7	189.0	182.6	893.5	3.8	149.0	120.2	122.7
July	100.1	100.6	105.4	91	138.5	26.3	233.2	191.7	184.8	968.2	4.1	133.9	123.0	134.3
Aug.	98.5	98.8	104.8	98	139.3	26.9	241.4	193.5	185.6	997.4	4.3	135.9	115.2	124.9
Sept.	100.0	100.3	106.1	120	140.5	26.6	243.2	194.9	186.0	1,034.4	4.4	131.1	121.9	123.1
Oct.	100.2	100.5	104.8	85	142.5	25.9	252.3	197.0	187.5	1,088.7	4.7	118.9	130.5	128.9
Nov.	100.2	100 5	105.2	81	144.2	25.2	256.7	198.9	195.6	1,133.0	4.9	111.8	123.4	128.0
Dec.	98.8	98.5	107.0	87	146.0	24.9	259.0	201.5	198.2	1,174.6	5.0	110.1	130.9	124.7
1976 Jan.	100.7	102.0	109.8	115	147.9	23.4	261.0	204.8	202.0	1,210.5	5.2	111.1	131.9	125.8
Feb.	101.6	101.8	107.1	101	149.8	22.9	263.5	207.3	206.3	1,232.4	5.3	113.5	128.4	125.4
Mar.	101.0 p	101.3 p	105.5	101	150.6	21.2	273.8	208.6	207.8	1,226.6	5.3	122.0	136.1	120.3
Apr.			108.5	118	153.5	18.9	285.1 p	211.4 p	209.0	1,233.7	5.3	123.9	136.5	131.1
May			105½ p	111 p			290.7 p	214.6 p		1,250.0	5.4	120.6	138.4 p	137.1 p
% change latest 3 months on prev. 3 months	+1.3	+1.9	−1.4	+8.9	+3.6		+8.4	+3.4	+4.6	+2.6		+9.5	+5	+3½
on a year earlier	−3.4	−4.2*	−4.1	+15.0	+20.9		+26.6	+15.6	+24.3	+54.0		−31.9	+9	+7½

p Provisional pe Preliminary estimate † Base of index Jan. 1962 = 100 .. not available # Average of 11 months

United Kingdom trade in the first quarter of 1976

SECTION 1
Visible balance

In the first quarter of 1976, there was a deficit on visible trade of £470 million compared with a deficit of £683 million in the fourth quarter of 1975. The deficit on visible trade is estimated to have been offset in the first quarter by net invisible earnings of £410 million. The reduction in the deficit reflected a sharp rise in exports, notably to the developed countries, as some of the major economies began to pull out of recession. On the import side, the rise in imports of industrial materials resulting from the recovery in the domestic economy and an end to destocking was offset by falls in the volume of imported food and new ships.

The favourable movement in the volumes of trade which began in the fourth quarter of 1975 continued into the first quarter of 1976. Between these two quarters the volume of exports rose by 3 per cent mainly the result of an upturn in exports of manufactures, especially of chemicals and metals. In contrast, import volume fell by 2½ per cent despite a further rise in imports of industrial materials, which partly offset the sharp fall in the volume of food imports and lower deliveries of new ships. North Sea oil production in the quarter led to

TABLE 2 Changes in value, volume and unit values of exports and imports on balance of payments basis

Seasonally adjusted except Unit Values

	Exports fob			Imports fob			Terms of trade**
	Value	Volume Index	Unit Value Index	Value	Volume Index	Unit Value Index	
	£m	1970 = 100		£m	1970 = 100		1970 = 100
1970	7,907	100.0	100.0	7,932	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	8,810	106.7	105.6	8,530	104.2	104.7	100.9
1972	9,141	106.6	111.1	9,843	116.3	109.7	101.3
1973	11,772	121.8	126.0	14,104	133.9	139.7	90.2
1974	15,895	130.1	162.7	21,159	135.2	218.0	74.6
1975	18,772	124.9	198.5	21,972	125.6	245.7	80.8
1974 1st quarter	3,481	126.7	147.2	4,778	133.9	194.9	75.5
2nd quarter	4,007	134.0	159.9	5,373	137.5	218.7	73.1
3rd quarter	4,222	133.4	168.1	5,475	136.4	224.5	74.9
4th quarter	4,185	126.5	175.8	5,533	133.0	231.7	75.9
1975 1st quarter	4,532	128.9	184.9	5,382	125.4	240.5	76.9
2nd quarter	4,479	122.6	193.4	5,160	122.2	241.1	80.2
3rd quarter	4,635	120.0	202.2	5,621	127.4	247.1	81.9
4th quarter	5,126	128.3	210.1	5,809	127.2	260.4	80.7
1976 1st quarter	5,441	132.1	219.0	5,911	123.8	270.0	81.1
Percentage change 1st qtr./4th qtr.	+6	+3	+4	+2	−2½	+3½	+½

** Export Unit Value Index as percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.

TABLE 1 Visible trade†

Seasonally adjusted

£ million

	Exports			Imports				
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis fob	Coverage adjustments	Balance of payments basis fob	Overseas Trade Statistics basis cif	Freight insurance and other valuation adjustments	Coverage adjustments‡	Balance of payment basis fob	Visible balance
1970	8,076	−169	7,907	9,040	−901	−207	7,932	−25
1971	9,187	−376	8,810	9,825	−997	−298	8,530	+280
1972	9,759	−618	9,141	11,143	−1,033	−267	9,843	−702
1973	12,505	−733	11,772	15,852	1,376	−372	14,104	−2,332
1974	16,600	−705	15,895	23,283	−1,652	−472	21,159	−5,264
1975	19,929	−1,156	18,772	24,163	−1,604	−587	21,972	−3,200
1974 1st quarter	3,637	−156	3,481	5,281	−418	−85	4,778	−1,297
2nd quarter	4,145	−138	4,007	5,949	−421	−154	5,373	−1,366
3rd quarter	4,430	−208	4,222	6,005	−415	−115	5,475	−1,253
4th quarter	4,388	−203	4,185	6,049	−398	−118	5,533	−1,348
1975 1st quarter	4,781	−249	4,532	5,879	−374	−122	5,382	−850
2nd quarter	4,744	−265	4,479	5,632	−385	−87	5,160	−681
3rd quarter	4,940	−305	4,635	6,191	−415	−155	5,621	−986
4th quarter	5,464	−337	5,126	6,462	−430	−222	5,809	−683
1976 1st quarter	5,775	−334	5,441	6,612	−433	−268	5,911	−470
Percentage change 1st qtr./4th qtr.	+5½		+6	+2½			+2	

† See note 1 (c).
§ Components and totals are rounded independently.
‡ Including adjustments for arrivals of and payments for United States military aircraft, etc.

TABLE 3 Visible trade on balance of payments basis area analysis

Seasonally adjusted values

	EEC			Rest of W. Europe			North America			Other developed countries			Oil exporting countries		
	Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance
1970	2,269	2,222	+47	1,384	1,205	+179	1,112	1,594	−482	969	820	+149	472	586	−114
1971	2,408	2,591	−183	1,498	1,380	+118	1,323	1,493	−170	1,065	842	+223	577	765	−188
1972	2,684	3,267	−583	1,586	1,623	−37	1,450	1,529	−79	916	1,072	−156	634	764	−130
1973	3,755	4,922	−1,167	2,044	2,346	−302	1,762	2,027	−265	1,198	1,401	−203	788	1,117	−329
1974	5,277	7,303	−2,026	2,722	3,051	−329	2,073	2,787	−714	1,668	1,575	+93	1,218	3,423	−2,205
1975	5,965	8,319	−2,354	3,059	3,113	−54	2,082	2,750	−668	1,766	1,779	−13	2,257	2,955	−698
1974 1st quarter	1,169	1,625	−456	633	694	−61	471	632	−161	357	340	+17	214	754	−540
2nd quarter	1,385	1,797	−412	672	750	−78	518	709	−191	410	363	+47	267	894	−627
3rd quarter	1,359	1,928	−569	722	821	−99	558	718	−160	438	419	+19	366	892	−526
4th quarter	1,364	1,953	−589	695	786	−91	526	728	−202	463	453	+10	371	883	−512
1975 1st quarter	1,405	1,998	−593	767	750	+17	540	735	−195	479	409	+70	479	760	−281
2nd quarter	1,377	1,916	−539	731	717	+14	494	657	−163	431	461	−30	581	675	−94
3rd quarter	1,447	2,114	−667	766	886	−120	474	692	−218	425	437	−12	587	775	−188
4th quarter	1,736	2,291	−555	795	760	+35	574	666	−92	431	472	−41	610	745	−135
1976 1st quarter	1,835	2,227	−392	809	824	−15	612	726	−114	487	398	+89	693	862	−161
Percentage change 1st qtr./4th qtr.	+5½	−3		+2	+8½		+6½	+9		+13	−16		+14	+16	

a saving of around £50 million of imported oil. Despite this the volume as well as the price of imported crude oil increased. Reinforcing these favourable trends in the volumes of trade, the terms of trade index rose by ½ per cent as the export unit value index increased by 4 per cent while the import unit value index rose by 3½ per cent. The depreciation of the pound sterling in March came too late to affect these figures.

The improvement in the UK's trading position in the first quarter of 1976 followed the trend which emerged in 1975. After reaching £5,264 million in 1974 in the wake of the oil price rises, the visible trade deficit declined to £3,200 million in 1975.

By the fourth quarter, the balance of trade had been reduced to a deficit of £683 million, after a set-back in the third quarter which saw the arrival of several large North Sea oil production installations, and there has been a further improvement in the first quarter of this year. The better figures in 1975 resulted partly from a faster fall in import volumes than in export volumes. The increasing slack in the domestic economy together with substantial de-stocking led to a decline in import volumes while the downturn in world trade led to a fall in export volume. Nevertheless our export performance was better than that of many of our competitors and our share of world trade in manufactures in 1975 increased. The movement in the terms of trade index also aided the improvement between the two years. The oil price rises pushed the index down to a low point of 73.1 in the second quarter of 1974 but it subsequently recovered to 80.2 in the second quarter of 1975 since when it has shown little change up to the first quarter of 1976.

Area analysis of the visible trade balance

The overall improvement in the visible trade balance in the first quarter of 1976 was the result of a number of disparate movements in the balances with the different areas of the world. Among the developed countries, the UK's visible trade balance with the EEC continued the sharp improvement which began in the fourth quarter of 1975; exports were rising sharply while imports were falling reducing the deficit from £555 million in the fourth quarter to £392 million in the first quarter of this year. This represents the lowest quarterly deficits on trade with the EEC since the fourth quarter of 1973 and reflects the recovery in the economies of these countries. In contrast, our trading position with the rest of Western Europe declined as the balance swung from a surplus of £35 million to a small deficit. The worsening in our deficit with North America from £92 million to £114 million between the two quarters in large measure resulted from the arrival of two large aircraft imported during the quarter which offset the strong rise in our exports. This deficit is however substantially below the levels ruling through most of 1974 and 1975. On the other hand, our balance with the other developed countries improved, swinging from a deficit of £41 million to a surplus of £89 million. Despite a 14 per cent increase in our exports to the oil exporting countries, the rise in our oil imports led to a worsening in our deficit with those countries from £135 million in the fourth quarter of 1975 to £169 million in the first quarter of 1976. Our surplus with the rest of the world was little changed at £112 million.

TABLE 3 *continued*

£ million

Rest of world			Total – all areas				
Exports	Imports	Visible balance	Exports	Imports	Visible balance		
1,701	1,505	+196	7,907	7,932	−25	1970	
1,939	1,459	+480	8,810	8,530	+280	1971	
1,871	1,588	+283	9,141	9,843	−702	1972	
2,225	2,292	−67	11 772	14,104	−2,332	1973	
2,936	3,020	−84	15,895	21,159	−5,264	1974	
3,644	3,056	+588	18,772	21,972	−3,200	1975	
646	719	−73	3,481	4,778	−1,297	1974	1st quarter
745	792	−47	4,007	5,373	−1,366		2nd quarter
778	765	+13	4,222	5,475	−1,253		3rd quarter
767	744	+23	4,185	5,533	−1,348		4th quarter
902	778	+124	4,532	5,382	−850	1975	1st quarter
862	705	+157	4,479	5,160	−681		2nd quarter
938	744	+194	4,635	5,621	−986		3rd quarter
942	829	+113	5,126	5,809	−683		4th quarter
1,038	926	+112	5,441	5,911	−470	1976	1st quarter
+10	+12		+6	+2			Percentage change 1st qtr./4th qtr.

Exports

The value of exports in the first quarter of 1976 was £5,441 million seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis, 6 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1975. The volume of deliveries rose by 3 per cent while prices were 4½ per cent higher. While our competitive position probably worsened slightly towards the end of 1975 and the beginning of this year, the sharp fall of 10 per cent in the sterling effective exchange rate between the beginning of March and the end of April will have given a considerable boost to our export prospects. This depreciation was not however an influence on the figures for the first quarter of 1976.

Between the third quarter of 1975, when the volume of exports was at its lowest point in the cycle, and the first quarter of 1976, the volume of shipments rose by 10 per cent. This reflected the upturn in world trade which seems to have begun towards the end of last year, particularly in the United States and in the EEC.

UK exports to the developed countries have increased rapidly since the third quarter of 1975 in line with this upturn in world trade. In the first quarter of 1976 exports to these countries in aggregate were 5½ per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1975. North America was our most buoyant market within this broad area group, and the value of goods despatched to this market increased by 10 per cent over this period to a level 28 per cent higher than in the third quarter of 1975. Shipments to the EEC rose by 6½ per cent in the first quarter, while a lower level of exports of precious stones caused deliveries to the rest of Western Europe to be unchanged from their fourth quarter level.

Shipments to the oil exporting countries, which had been largely flat in the second half of 1975, resumed their growth at the beginning of this year. In the first quarter they were 15 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1975.

Among the major commodity group exports of manufactured goods rose in value by 5½ per cent in the first quarter, with prices rising slightly faster than the volume of deliveries. Within this broad category the value of exports of machinery rose by 7½ per cent, reflecting both higher prices and volumes. A rise of 12 per cent in the value of road motor vehicles despatched was partly offset by a fall in deliveries of other transport equipment: taken together, the volume of exports of these two commodity groups was little changed. Shipments of chemicals rose substantially, by 18 per cent in value, in the latest three months, largely due to greater volume. Exports of metals and textiles each rose by 7½ per cent in value mainly reflecting higher volumes. Other manufactures were little changed either in value or volume, in part reflecting a reduction in exports of precious stones from their very high level in the fourth quarter of 1975. The value of shipments of non-manufactures rose by 5 per cent over the period, with exports of fuels rising by 11 per cent.

Imports

In the first quarter of 1976 imports were valued at £5,911 million seasonally adjusted on a balance of payments basis, 2 per cent higher than in the fourth quarter of 1975. As in the fourth quarter of 1975, the rise in the value of imports was entirely the result of higher prices, the volume of imports falling by 2½ per cent between the two quarters.

The rise in import prices at 3½ per cent was less marked than towards the end of last year when the import unit value index was responding to falls in the weighted depreciation of the £ sterling earlier in the year. From November 1975 to February 1976, the weighted depreciation of the £ from Smithsonian held steady at around 30 per cent before falling again in March, too late to have much effect on the figures for the first quarter. Among the major commodity groups the greatest rise in prices was one of 7½ per cent in fuels where oil prices were still affected by the rises imposed during the previous quarter as well as by depreciation of the £ against the US dollar. The second largest rise was one of 4 per cent in finished manufactures which included a 5½ per cent rise in road motor vehicles and other transport equipment. This rate of rise is about the same as between the fourth quarter of 1975 and the third quarter and well below the rates recorded earlier in the year when inflation took hold in the developed countries of the world.

In the first quarter of 1976 the volume of imports fell back by 2½ per cent from the higher levels recorded in the second half of 1975 following the sharp decline in the first half of that year. The lower volume figure was accounted for by two sectors; food beverages and tobacco and new ships purchased by UK owners from foreign yards

TABLE 4 Balance of trade in petroleum and petroleum products* (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted — Balance of payment basis

	Balance of visible trade	Imports					Exports		
		Total	Crude oil			Rest of division	Total	Crude oil	Rest of division
	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	Million tons	Average value per ton £ fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob	£ million fob
1970	−484	660	450	100.4	4.5	210	176	8	168
1971	−650	862	643	105.6	6.1	219	212	10	202
1972	−658	877	659	102.7	6.4	218	219	21	198
1973	−941	1,281	941	111.5	8.4	340	340	23	317
1974	−3,423	4,119	3,342	109.4	30.6	777	696	29	667
1975	−3,114	3,835	3,071	85.8	35.8	764	721	30	691
1974 1st quarter	−730	866	703	28.5	24.8	163	136	3	133
2nd quarter	−890	1,092	902	28.3	32.0	190	202	12	190
3rd quarter	−897	1,080	868	26.5	32.9	212	183	6	177
4th quarter	−906	1,081	869	26.1	33.4	212	175	8	167
1975 1st quarter	−766	943	753	22.1	34.2	190	177	7	170
2nd quarter	−689	843	698	20.7	33.7	145	154	1	153
3rd quarter	−795	985	806	22.7	35.6	179	190	6	184
4th quarter	−864	1,064	814	20.3	40.2	250	200	16	184
1976 1st quarter	−959	1,180	931	21.5	43.4	250	221	18	203
Percentage change 1st qtr./4th qtr.		+11	+14	+5½	+8	—	+11	+12	+10

* See note 1(h).

and delivered abroad. The volume of imports of food beverages and tobacco fell by 14 per cent from the exceptionally high levels recorded in the fourth quarter of 1975. The fall was widespread except for fruit and vegetables, where high imports of potatoes were mainly responsible for a rise, and tobacco. After averaging £100 million a quarter in 1975, purchases of new ships built in overseas shipyards and delivered abroad to UK customers fell to very low levels in the first quarter of 1976 a reflection in part of the depressed state of the tanker market. Partly offsetting these falls, the volume of imports of industrial materials rose by 6 per cent marking a fast recovery from the depressed levels recorded in the middle of 1975. The turn round was most noticeable in the case of basic materials which were 18 per cent higher in the first quarter and signalled a change to stock building and some recovery in industrial output. Finished manufactures were little changed in total with a fall of 7½ per cent in machinery imports offsetting rises of 18 per cent in road motor vehicles and other transport equipment and 5½ per cent in other finished manufactures.

Among the major areas of the world imports from the EEC were unchanged between the first quarter of 1976 and the fourth quarter of 1975 while imports from North America and the rest of Western Europe rose by 10 per cent and 4 per cent respectively. Imports from the other developed countries were 16 per cent lower. Imports from the oil exporting countries were 14 per cent higher while there was a 5 per cent increase in imports from the other developing countries. Imports from the Centrally Planned Economies rose by 30 per cent.

SECTION 2

Exports by area

Exports in the first quarter of 1976 were valued at £5,775 million, on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis, an increase of 5½ per cent on the previous three months. In this period shipments to the developed markets also rose by 5½ per cent continuing the recovery which began in the latter part of last year as economic conditions in the industrialised countries improved, while exports to the developing countries, 13 per cent higher than in the previous quarter, increased even more rapidly.

In the first quarter of 1976 UK exports to the EEC were valued at £1,969 million, an advance of 6½ per cent on the previous three months. Deliveries were higher to all countries within the community, the sharpest rise being to Denmark, our smallest EEC market, where exports rose by 25 per cent in this period. This improvement was in direct contrast to the pattern throughout 1975 when the rate of growth of UK exports to this market had been the slowest within the EEC and can almost wholly be explained by increased deliveries of road motor vehicles, petroleum and petroleum products and chemicals. Increased exports of chemicals played a large part in the improvement in UK exports to most EEC countries in this period, notably Belgium and Luxembourg and the Netherlands. There were also marked increases in exports of metals to France and West Germany, our two largest markets within the EEC, transport equipment to Belgium and Luxembourg, France and the Irish Republic, non-electrical machinery to France, petroleum and

TABLE 5 Exports: areas¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1970	8,076	2,359	1,368	1,233	956	466	1,354	304
1971	9,187	2,660	1,512	1,446	1,064	576	1,610	282
1972	9,759	2,940	1,730	1,601	945	645	1,560	308
1973	12,505	4,034	2,266	1,939	1,219	800	1,792	409
1974	16,600	5,516	2,952	2,267	1,699	1,210	2,381	515
1975	19,929	6,419	3,372	2,332	1,878	2,278	2,923	666
1974 1st quarter	3,637	1,211	686	510	369	213	522	118
2nd quarter	4,144	1,416	731	566	418	264	605	121
3rd quarter	4,430	1,459	777	603	442	364	636	135
4th quarter	4,388	1,434	756	588	470	368	618	140
1975 1st quarter	4,781	1,514	827	603	491	484	733	153
2nd quarter	4,744	1,494	782	553	451	585	699	163
3rd quarter	4,940	1,560	847	544	466	596	732	183
4th quarter	5,464	1,851	915	632	472	614	759	167
1976 1st quarter	5,775	1,969	916	695	508	704	842	175
Percentage change 1st qtr./4th qtr.	+5½	+6½	—	+10	+7½	+15	+11	+5

¶ See note 1(b).

petroleum products to the Irish Republic and basic materials to Italy. Conversely, exports of food, particularly cereals, were lower for all markets within the community. There were also reductions in the value of diamonds shipped to Belgium and Luxembourg and the Irish Republic, and in machinery and transport equipment despatched to the Netherlands and West Germany.

The value of deliveries to the other Western European countries taken together remained unchanged in the first three months of 1976. Exports to Switzerland, the UK's largest market within this group, fell by 9 per cent to £232 million wholly reflecting the erratic nature of the diamond trade as exports fell back sharply from the high figure of the previous quarter. Among the Scandinavian countries, exports to Sweden rose by 4½ per cent to £216 million largely due to increased shipments of metals and machinery. Exports to Norway and Finland each followed similar courses during 1975 and this pattern has continued in the first three months of 1976. Deliveries to these two countries were fairly static over the first nine months of 1975 after which there was some recovery but in both cases there has been a fall of 4½ per cent in the value of goods exported to them in the first quarter of this year. In the case of Norway the fall can be largely attributed to a reduction in the value of petroleum and petroleum products exported while in that of Finland it was due to reductions in the value of petroleum and petroleum products and textiles. Shipments to Spain rose by 4 per cent to £82 million in the first three months of 1976, and this increase was widely spread among the commodity groups.

North America continued to be the most buoyant market among the developed countries with exports rising by 10 per cent in the first quarter to £695 million. At £542 million, deliveries to the USA alone were also 10 per cent higher than in the previous three months reflecting increased shipments of diamonds, chemicals, electrical machinery and passenger motor cars which more than offset a fall in exports of food and whisky. In this period the value of goods despatched to Canada rose by 12 per cent to £153 million largely as a result of greater deliveries of machinery and transport equipment.

Shipments to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, Japan and South Africa taken together) rose by 7½ per cent to £508 million in the first three months of this year. Within this group the value of exports to Australia grew most rapidly, by 11 per cent. This increase was spread throughout most commodity groups but exports of chemicals rose particularly rapidly. Increased deliveries of chemicals also largely accounted for the rises of 7 per cent, 3 per cent and 2½ per cent in exports to Japan, New Zealand and South Africa respectively.

In the first quarter of 1976 exports to the developing countries were valued at £1,545 million, an increase of 13 per cent on the previous three months. Within this total, shipments to the oil-exporting countries, our fastest-growing market in the first half of 1975, rose by 15 per cent following a period of little change in the second half of 1975. Among the oil-exporters, Iran, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia remained the largest markets for UK exports, and shipments to these three countries increased by 13 per cent, 9½ per cent and 27 per cent respectively. In each case the increases were largely due to higher exports of machinery and transport equipment while shipments of chemicals to Nigeria also increased rapidly.

Deliveries to the Middle East and North Africa increased by 6½ per cent in the first quarter to £674 million due to the higher level of UK exports to the oil exporters. This was highlighted by the fact that exports to Israel, the major non-oil exporter in the area group, fell by 9½ per cent to £61 million wholly reflecting fewer exports of diamonds.

Shipments to Latin America increased by 5 per cent in the first quarter although deliveries to the largest market within this group, Brazil, increased by only 1 per cent to £41 million. This slow growth was due to falls on deliveries of whisky, metals and transport equipment only being slightly outweighed by higher shipments of machinery. The major growth in this area was in exports to Cuba, which increased very substantially largely reflecting higher exports of chemicals, non-electrical machinery and transport equipment.

The value of deliveries to the centrally planned economies was £175 million in the first quarter, an increase of 5 per cent on the previous three months. Over 60 per cent of exports to this area were shipped to Poland and the Soviet Union. In this period both countries received greater deliveries of chemicals and metals but lower exports of non-electrical machinery. However, while these changes caused an overall growth of 14 per cent in exports to the Soviet Union, the value of goods despatched to Poland fell by 16 per cent to £47 million.

Exports by commodity

Exports of manufactured goods in the first quarter accounted for 82 per cent of total exports and were valued at £4,763 million, 5½ per cent more than in the fourth quarter of 1975. In volume terms, shipments of manufactured goods rose by 3 per cent, maintaining the improvement shown in the previous quarter.

Within this broad group of commodities the value of shipments of machinery and transport equipment grew faster than in the previous three months, rising by 7½ per cent to £2,376 million; this increase was largely due to an increase of 5½ per cent in export prices. The value of road motor vehicle shipments rose considerably by 12 per cent partly offset by a fall of 10 per cent in deliveries of other transport equipment; in aggregate, export of transport equipment increased by 5½ per cent although the volume of deliveries was virtually unchanged. By market, exports of passenger motor cars rose sharply to North America and to most EEC countries and to Iran. In contrast there was a fall in deliveries to Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

Deliveries of electrical machinery rose sharply by 14 per cent in value to £459 million, and shipments of non-electrical machinery by 5 per cent to £1,226 million. Taking these two commodity groups

TABLE 6 Exports: commodity classes¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

						Manufactures									
							Machinery and transport equipment								
		Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1970		8,076	515	273	206	6,806	3,301	2,222	834	248	785	959	396	1,364	275
1971		9,187	587	278	236	7,824	3,871	2,593	988	290	884	1,004	426	1,640	260
1972		9,759	660	322	239	8,257	4,014	2,716	915	383	962	1,015	445	1,821	283
1973		12,505	876	433	370	10,455	4,774	3,221	1,100	453	1,272	1,310	590	2,509	371
1974		16,600	1,063	576	767	13,685	6,059	4,215	1,305	535	2,144	1,712	745	3,025	509
1975		19,929	1,428	561	814	16,464	8,236	5,784	1,737	715	2,179	1,839	698	3,512	662
1974	1st quarter	3,637	276	146	142	2,961	1,302	909	285	110	444	410	183	645	122
	2nd quarter	4,144	264	156	219	3,366	1,438	986	310	128	533	408	198	813	127
	3rd quarter	4,430	283	148	204	3,685	1,644	1,143	340	148	590	455	190	788	122
	4th quarter	4,388	240	125	202	3,673	1,675	1,176	369	148	577	440	174	769	137
1975	1st quarter	4,781	364	136	210	3,905	1,904	1,343	411	149	572	478	174	804	157
	2nd quarter	4,744	295	135	178	3,963	2,012	1,391	418	191	512	462	163	837	157
	3rd quarter	4,940	373	134	207	4,079	2,112	1,486	451	165	516	447	170	825	169
	4th quarter	5,464	396	156	219	4,518	2,208	1,564	456	210	579	451	190	1,045	179
1976	1st quarter	5,775	404	164	243	4,763	2,376	1,679	512	190	683	484	204	1,048	194
	Percentage change 1st qtr/4th qtr.	+5½	+2	+5	+11	+5½	+7½	+7½	+12	−10	+18	+7½	+7½	+½	+8½

¶ See note 1(b). * Not seasonally adjusted.

together both price rises and increased volumes contributed equally to the increases. Shipments of electrical machinery to the USA increased particularly rapidly while deliveries of non-electrical machinery rose to France and to the major oil exporting countries.

Among semi-manufactures the value of exports of chemicals continued to recover rapidly from the recession in 1975 and rose substantially by 18 per cent in the first quarter largely due to a greater volume of shipments. This increase was widespread, with a particularly marked rise in the value of shipments to the important market of the Benelux countries. The value of metals and textiles exported each rose by 7½ per cent mainly reflecting higher volumes of deliveries. Shipments of iron and steel and non-ferrous metals rose to the EEC notably to France, and fell to the North American markets. Textiles to the EEC improved but fell to the other Western European markets. Increased shipments were made to the USA and Canada. Other manufactures showed little change either in value or volume terms, mainly because of reduced trade in precious stones from its high fourth quarter level.

Within the non-manufactured group of exports food, beverages and tobacco increased in value by 2 per cent in the first three months of 1976, but in volume terms were 2½ per cent lower, a rise of 15 per cent in value of beverages and tobacco despatched being largely offset by a fall of 6 per cent in exports of food. Exports of food (particularly barley) to the EEC fell considerably. Basic materials shipments increased in value by 5 per cent largely because of increased prices. The value of exports of fuels in the first quarter of 1976 increased by 11 per cent, reflecting increases in both volumes and price, the rise being particularly sharp to the EEC, especially Denmark.

Commodity pattern of imports

Imports of food, beverages and tobacco fell by 16 per cent in the first quarter of 1976 compared with the last quarter of 1975, the result of a 14 per cent drop in volume. This was made up of a 16 per cent fall in imports of food and live animals, and a decrease of 7½ per cent in shipments of beverages and tobacco. The reduction in imports of food and live animals was spread amongst all the commodities within this group. The only exception was arrivals of fruit and vegetables which rose by 8 per cent; an increase in volume partly reflecting the poor home crop of potatoes in 1975 leading to a sharp rise in imports from the Netherlands, Egypt and the Canary Islands.

A lower volume of arrivals accounted for reductions in the value of imports of meat and meat preparations (2½ per cent) dairy produce

TABLE 7 Exports: Volume indices (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1970	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	109.0	109	99	101	110	108	109	107	110	107	106	119
1972	111.4	113	107	102	112	106	106	105	118	108	111	128
1973	126.5	135	114	107	128	117	119	114	143	123	127	148
1974	132.9	142	115	101	135	125	127	120	169	116	125	154
1975	129.8	155	107	93	130	133	136	128	142	102	105	145
1974 1st quarter	129.1	149	135	83	129	116	119	108	171	126	140	143
2nd quarter	134.0	142	121	110	135	123	124	116	169	113	136	166
3rd quarter	138.2	150	108	107	140	134	135	129	176	112	120	160
4th quarter	130.3	128	95	105	133	128	130	127	161	112	104	148
1975 1st quarter	133.4	168	105	105	133	135	137	130	153	114	103	146
2nd quarter	127.2	133	103	87	129	133	134	130	135	103	100	143
3rd quarter	125.1	149	104	91	127	133	138	123	136	97	103	131
4th quarter	133.7	170	118	90	133	131	134	130	145	93	113	160
1976 1st quarter	137.2	166	119	93	137	136	139	130	168	101	117	159
Percentage change 1st qtr/4th qtr.	+2½	−2½	+1	+3½	+3	+3½	+4	+½	+16	+8½	+3½	−½

TABLE 8 Exports: Unit value indices (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1970	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	105.6	106	104	115	105	110	109	111	102	99	102	102
1972	111.1	113	113	116	111	118	118	117	104	100	104	107
1973	125.8	126	143	166	124	128	128	129	114	115	123	125
1974	161.4	148	181	381	155	153	155	149	169	164	159	146
1975	198.3	178	198	439	193	196	200	189	209	194	177	180
1974 1st quarter	147.0	136	163	332	142	143	144	140	143	143	142	138
2nd quarter	159.8	148	189	392	153	149	151	146	168	164	158	143
3rd quarter	168.1	154	197	385	162	158	162	150	179	177	166	150
4th quarter	175.7	157	193	395	170	168	172	160	191	179	175	157
1975 1st quarter	184.9	166	192	416	179	179	182	172	200	184	178	163
2nd quarter	193.4	176	199	421	188	190	192	185	209	189	177	172
3rd quarter	202.0	183	200	442	197	201	202	201	209	195	177	185
4th quarter	210.1	187	202	474	205	213	217	203	211	202	180	192
1976 1st quarter	218.9	192	211	496	214	224	231	210	219	206	185	199
Percentage change 1st qtr./4th qtr.	+4	+3	+4	+4½	+4½	+5½	+6	+3½	+4	+2½	+2½	+4

and eggs (21 per cent) cereals and animal feeding stuffs (26 per cent) and other food and live animals (15 per cent). Among individual commodities to record a drop in volume were cheese, wheat, tea and raw sugar.

The reduction in imports of beverages and tobacco reflected a fall in the volume of deliveries of beverages which resulted in a 20 per cent drop in the value of imports of that commodity group. In contrast imports of tobacco rose by 8½ per cent as a result of a rise in volume.

In the first quarter, imports of fuels were valued at £1,303 million, an increase of 9½ per cent over the previous quarter. A 14 per cent rise in the value of crude oil imports reflected an 8 per cent rise in price and a 5½ per cent increase in the volume of arrivals.

Among our major suppliers Saudi Arabia and Iran both increased the quantity of shipments from the low level of the previous quarter. The volume of shipments from Qatar doubled while those from Nigeria fell back from the high level of the fourth quarter.

Imports of industrial materials in aggregate rose by 9 per cent to reach a total of £2,402 million, reflecting the recovery in the level of industrial activity and an end to destocking. Among basic materials, which rose in value terms by 19 per cent, a higher volume of deliveries accounted for most of the increases in the value of imports of timber (28 per cent) pulp (25 per cent) textile fibres (32 per cent) and metal ores (18 per cent). This increase in the volume of deliveries of pulp and metal ores was a continuation of the recovery experienced in the last quarter of 1975 after several quarters of declining deliveries. In contrast, while deliveries of these basic materials were declining imports of textile fibres were increasing possibly due to stockbuilding in anticipation of rising prices but in the fourth quarter of 1975 the volume of such imports fell. The volume of timber imports increased steadily during 1975 but are only now approaching the levels reached in 1974.

In general imports of semi-manufactures did not grow at anything like the rate of basic materials. Imports of chemicals increased by 9½ per cent, the result of a higher volume, particularly of plastic materials which in value terms rose by 23 per cent. Apart from imports of textiles and non ferrous metals which rose by 11 per cent and 15 per cent respectively imports of other semi-manufactures were little changed. Within the textile group, there were increased deliveries of textile yarn and woven cotton fabrics, while among the non ferrous metals, imports of aluminium and lead both showed an increase in volume.

TABLE 9 Imports: Commodity classes¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
									Machinery and transport equipment					
	Total	Food beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1970	9,040	2,047	945	3,862	1,362	543	1,957	2,072	1,498	1,199	169	108	574	113
1971	9,825	2,176	1,247	3,843	1,271	569	2,003	2,431	1,730	1,278	275	168	701	129
1972	11,143	2,356	1,242	4,286	1,323	651	2,312	3,130	2,238	1,568	482	187	892	129
1973	15,852	3,094	1,724	6,239	1,963	897	3,380	4,632	3,293	2,374	653	266	1,339	163
1974	23,283	3,779	4,627	8,953	2,580	1,584	4,789	5,555	3,902	2,969	645	287	1,653	370
1975	24,163	4,346	4,310	8,364	2,214	1,409	4,741	6,655	4,782	3,603	883	297	1,872	489
1974 1st quarter	5,281	845	974	2,063	598	345	1,121	1,320	913	709	147	49	406	62
2nd quarter	5,949	938	1,212	2,312	671	399	1,242	1,383	957	739	145	85	426	71
3rd quarter	6,005	969	1,202	2,352	686	441	1,225	1,399	990	738	179	66	410	92
4th quarter	6,049	1,027	1,238	2,226	625	399	1,202	1,452	1,042	783	174	87	411	145
1975 1st quarter	5,879	1,013	1,055	2,129	582	364	1,182	1,538	1,094	792	195	96	444	153
2nd quarter	5,632	1,004	955	1,991	545	320	1,126	1,524	1,079	800	224	71	445	125
3rd quarter	6,191	1,120	1,110	2,041	519	331	1,191	1,836	1,364	1,055	229	70	472	105
4th quarter	6,462	1,208	1,190	2,203	568	394	1,242	1,757	1,246	955	234	60	511	106
1976 1st quarter	6,612	1,020	1,303	2,402	676	430	1,295	1,818	1,265	901	264	95	553	92
Percentage change 1st qtr./4th qtr.		+2½	−16	+9½	+9	+19	+9½	+4½	+3½	+1½	−5½	+13	+60	+8	−13

* Not seasonally adjusted

TABLE 10 Imports: Areas¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1970	9,040	2,440	1,311	1,856	856	828	1,341	388
1971	9,825	2,914	1,452	1,732	947	1,067	1,315	376
1972	11,143	3,520	1,819	1,784	1,141	1,034	1,402	423
1973	15,852	5,206	2,700	2,357	1,461	1,490	2,019	593
1974	23,283	7,730	3,469	3,249	1,684	3,785	2,591	751
1975	24,163	8,805	3,566	3,208	1,855	3,274	2,666	753
1974 1st quarter	5,281	1,699	811	734	382	865	608	189
2nd quarter	5,949	1,925	869	829	417	983	693	187
3rd quarter	6,005	2,057	902	832	448	973	665	183
4th quarter	6,049	2,049	886	854	466	964	624	192
1975 1st quarter	5,879	2,125	825	849	432	834	669	184
2nd quarter	5,632	2,043	787	768	456	751	620	170
3rd quarter	6,191	2,215	1,013	802	476	864	652	186
4th quarter	6,462	2,423	941	789	491	825	724	213
1976 1st quarter	6,612	2,423	978	871	414	941	760	276
Percentage change 1st quarter/4th quarter	+2½	—	+4	+10	−16	+14	+5	+30

In the first quarter, imports of finished manufactures rose by 3½ per cent to total £1,818 million. The value of machinery imports fell by 5½ per cent as a result of a lower volume of imports with a drop of ½ per cent in imports of electrical machinery and an 8 per cent decrease in imports of non electrical machinery. Imports of road motor vehicles however increased by 13 per cent as a result of an increase in numbers. Despite increased production in the UK of motor cars for the home market, the quantity of cars imported increased particularly from West Germany, although deliveries from France, Japan, Sweden and Belgium also increased. Imports of other transport equipment rose by 60 per cent, reflecting the arrival of two large aircraft during the quarter.

Imports of consumer goods rose by 11 per cent reflecting not only the increase in imports of cars but also rises in imports of motor cycles, clothing and footwear.

Sources of imports

Imports from the EEC were unchanged at £2,423 million in the first quarter. There were however contrasting movements in imports from the member countries. Imports from West Germany increased by 6 per cent with rises in deliveries of cars, dairy produce, chemicals and textiles offsetting a fall in shipments of iron and steel. The gradual rise in imports from Denmark which was experienced in 1975 continued with a further rise of 6½ per cent in the first quarter. In contrast imports from the Irish Republic fell by 13 per cent reflecting lower deliveries of foodstuffs. Arrivals from Italy and Belgium and Luxembourg were 5 per cent lower reflecting mainly a drop in imports of machinery and transport equipment, wheat and petroleum products. Imports from France rose by 2½ per cent with the increase spread over a wide range of products while imports from the Netherlands were unchanged despite the rise in imports of potatoes.

Imports from the rest of Western Europe increased by 4 per cent to total £978 million in the first quarter. An increase in deliveries of iron ore contributed to a 4½ per cent rise in imports from Norway.

Imports from North America at £871 million in the quarter increased by 10 per cent over the previous quarter, a marked recovery from the low levels of the previous three quarters. Arrivals of two large aircraft plus increases in imports of electrical machinery and plastic materials gave rise to a 6½ per cent growth in imports from the USA. Imports from Canada increased by 23 per cent with higher deliveries of wood, paper and pulp contributing.

In contrast, imports from the other developed countries fell by 16 per cent to £414 million, a sharp reversal of the rising trend experienced during 1975. Imports from South Africa fell back by 42 per cent from the high level of the fourth quarter 1975 as a result of a fall in imports of chemicals and diamonds. A greater volume of lead imports and higher imports of metal ores contributed to the 20 per cent rise in imports from Australia and higher imports of cars led to a 5½ per cent increase in imports from Japan.

Imports from the developing countries were 10 per cent higher in

TABLE 11 Imports: Volume indices (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1970	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	104.8	100	109	101	91	103	106	115	113	106	140	122
1972	116.0	102	109	109	93	118	119	146	145	136	183	147
1973	132.7	102	112	125	104	140	136	186	185	176	219	189
1974	133.8	99	106	129	93	151	147	189	188	188	192	191
1975	124.4	98	89	113	78	122	135	183	182	176	203	186
1974 1st quarter	131.8	95	105	129	96	152	146	190	186	188	172	202
2nd quarter	137.2	101	107	131	96	156	149	193	189	191	197	202
3rd quarter	136.1	100	106	130	93	160	147	190	190	186	199	188
4th quarter	131.3	98	107	124	87	139	144	184	189	186	200	173
1975 1st quarter	124.0	92	90	116	82	124	137	184	185	176	214	183
2nd quarter	120.0	92	85	111	79	112	132	174	170	164	207	184
3rd quarter	126.1	101	91	111	74	117	135	191	193	189	200	187
4th quarter	127.6	107	90	116	78	133	138	182	179	177	190	188
1976 1st quarter	125.7	91	90	123	92	143	140	183	177	164	224	198
Percentage change 1st quarter/4th quarter	−1½	−14	−1	+6	+18	+7	+1½	+½	−1½	−7½	+18	+5½

TABLE 12 Imports: Unit value indices (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
1970	100.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1971	104.9	107	122	99	102	102	96	106	107	107	108	102
1972	109.1	114	123	102	106	104	99	111	112	109	124	110
1973	138.1	150	164	131	141	126	126	128	127	123	141	131
1974	210.3	193	468	190	208	207	172	152	147	143	163	164
1975	235.9	219	535	199	215	229	180	188	183	181	194	200
1974 1st quarter	190.2	183	393	171	184	176	160	145	142	140	153	152
2nd quarter	211.3	191	485	190	207	201	174	151	146	142	163	163
3rd quarter	216.2	193	482	197	218	217	177	158	152	148	168	173
4th quarter	222.3	202	494	199	219	230	177	166	159	155	174	185
1975 1st quarter	230.1	218	509	200	217	240	177	174	168	164	183	191
2nd quarter	231.9	218	506	198	213	236	177	186	181	179	191	197
3rd quarter	237.6	217	536	200	213	230	182	196	192	189	204	207
4th quarter	249.5	223	591	206	222	234	187	205	199	197	210	220
1976 1st quarter	258.8	228	636	210	226	239	190	213	207	204	221	226
Percentage change 1st quarter/4th quarter	+3½	+2	+7½	+2	+2	+2	+1½	+4	+4	+4	+5½	+3

the first quarter at £1,702 million, a continuation of the rise commenced in the third quarter of 1975. Deliveries from Latin America remained unchanged at £142 million as the level of imports steadied after falling from the high levels of the first half of 1975 brought about by the increased value of sugar imports at that time. Imports from the Middle East and North Africa, which includes the majority of the oil exporting countries, rose by 22 per cent reflecting both a rise in the volume of crude oil imports and a further price increase. Deliveries of crude oil from Saudi Arabia increased so that in value terms total imports from that source rose by 20 per cent to return to the level set in the first three quarters of 1975. Imports from Iran grew by 55 per cent while in contrast imports from Kuwait rose by 2 per cent as the volume of crude oil imports from that country fell slightly. Among the rest of the developing countries a lower volume of crude oil imports contributed to a 15 per cent reduction in imports from Nigeria.

Imports from the Centrally Planned Economies totalled £276 million in the first quarter, a 30 per cent increase on the previous quarter and a continuation of a rising trend started in the third quarter of 1975. Among this group of countries imports from the Soviet Union in the first quarter amounted to almost half the value of

TABLE 13 Exports: Areas¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

	1975					1976	Percentage change
	Year	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	1st qtr./4th qtr.
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	14,003	3,436	3,280	3,416	3,871	4,088	+5½
EEC	6,419	1,514	1,494	1,560	1,851	1,969	+6½
Belgium and Luxembourg	922	214	221	202	284	296	+4
Denmark	443	96	103	120	124	155	+25
France	1,165	264	266	289	345	370	+7
Irish Republic	907	227	205	217	257	283	+10
Italy	563	129	130	140	165	173	+5
Netherlands	1,115	285	252	277	299	316	+5½
West Germany	1,304	309	312	319	363	389	+7
REST OF W. EUROPE	3,372	827	782	847	915	916	—
Finland	265	65	65	65	70	67	−4½
Norway	391	103	91	94	102	98	−4½
Spain	295	76	68	71	79	82	+4
Sweden	826	208	201	210	207	216	+4½
Switzerland	805	179	166	205	255	232	−9
NORTH AMERICA	2,332	603	553	544	632	695	+10
USA and Dependencies	1,789	459	422	415	493	542	+10
Canada	539	143	130	129	136	153	+12
OTHER	1,879	491	451	465	472	508	+7½
Australia	632	161	161	152	157	174	+11
Japan	309	81	71	77	80	85	+7
New Zealand	254	72	58	61	62	64	+3
South Africa	685	169	161	180	174	179	+2½
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	5,202	1,217	1,283	1,328	1,373	1,545	+13
LATIN AMERICA	686	165	172	171	178	187	+5
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	2,227	491	554	549	633	674	+6½
Iran	495	107	137	141	110	124	+13
Israel	237	69	52	49	67	61	−9½
Saudi Arabia	200	40	47	57	55	70	+27
REST	2,289	561	557	608	562	685	+22
Brazil	161	42	39	39	40	41	+1
India	165	45	35	44	41	48	+16
Nigeria	512	95	122	144	151	166	+9½
CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES	666	153	163	183	167	175	+5
Poland	182	39	43	43	56	47	−16
Soviet Union	210	42	49	67	52	59	+14
TOTAL	19,929	4,781	4,744	4,940	5,464	5,775	+5½
of which							
OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES	2,278	484	585	596	614	704	+15

¶ See note 1(b) and 1(f).

TABLE 14 Exports: Commodity classes¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

	1975					1976	Percentage change
	Year	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	1st qtr./4th qtr.
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	1,428	364	295	373	396	404	+2
Food and live animals	885	217	176	243	250	235	−6
Beverages and tobacco	543	147	120	130	147	169	+15
Beverages	437	123	95	100	119	139	+17
BASIC MATERIALS	561	136	135	134	156	164	+5
Crude materials	533	127	128	128	150	158	+5
Textile fibres	183	43	46	44	50	55	+11
FUELS	814	210	178	207	219	243	+11
MANUFACTURES	16,464	3,905	3,963	4,079	4,518	4,763	+5½
Machinery and transport equipment	8,236	1,904	2,012	2,112	2,208	2,376	+7½
Non-electric machinery	4,255	975	1,014	1,102	1,163	1,220	+5
Electric machinery	1,529	368	377	383	402	459	+14
Road motor vehicles	1,737	411	418	451	456	512	+12
Other transport equipment*	715	149	191	165	210	190	−10
Chemicals	2,179	572	512	516	579	683	+18
Chemical elements and compounds	654	167	145	151	191	223	+17
Medicinal and pharmaceutical products	373	92	95	91	94	108	+14
Plastic materials	355	91	80	82	102	117	+15
Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	1,839	478	462	447	451	484	+7½
Iron and steel	683	189	172	158	165	169	+2
Non-ferrous metals	539	141	137	129	132	133	+1
Miscellaneous metal manufactures	617	150	150	154	163	183	+13
Textiles	698	174	163	170	190	204	+7½
Other	3,512	804	837	825	1,045	1,048	+½
Clothing and footwear	318	76	75	78	89	98	+10
Instruments	518	124	127	129	137	142	+3½
MISCELLANEOUS	662	157	157	169	179	194	+8½
TOTAL	19,929	4,781	4,744	4,940	5,464	5,775	+5½

¶ See note 1(b). * Not seasonally adjusted.

imports from that country during 1975 with increased shipments of diamonds, petroleum and petroleum products contributing to an 81 per cent growth in the first quarter.

NOTES

1(a) Trade figures on a balance of payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a balance of payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in Table 1 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the *Trade Statistics* (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to United Kingdom owners) or to remove items which are in the *Trade Statistics* (mainly returned goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of United States military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special United States Exim Bank credit. (The values involved are now small.) All those adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual Pink Book, *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1964-74* and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

1(b). The adjustments described at Note 1(a) have been made for the quarterly totals of exports and imports, for the main area analysis of trade (Table 3) and for trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 4). They cannot be estimated for the other commodity analysis of trade nor for individual countries. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in Tables 5, 6, 9, 10, 13-16 are on the *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis and correspond with the totals given in the first columns of Table 1. Comments on total trade and in the section headed 'Area Analysis of the Visible Trade Balance' relate to figures on a balance of payments basis. Detailed analysis of imports and exports on an area and commodity basis relates to the figures on an *Overseas Trade Statistics* basis in Tables 5, 6, 9, 10, 13-16. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

1(c) Visible balances. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1(a) above.

1(d) Recording of exports. The present system for the documentation of exports aimed at securing their full recording was introduced in October 1971; the system, and the methods used to monitor the accuracy of the resulting figures, were described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973.

Regular assessments of the quality of recording indicated that, from the beginning of 1972 until late 1973, there was no need to make adjustments to the export figures for a shortfall in documentation. Some errors in recording remained, whereby either the need to submit a document was overlooked or, on the other hand, two documents might be submitted for the same goods. The amount of these errors had been substantially reduced and they more or less balanced out, leaving the total recorded figure of exports in each month virtually correct.

From the autumn of 1973 until the end of 1974, however, there was evidence of a slight deterioration causing a small net amount of under-recording of about half of one per cent. In view of this evidence an adjustment, varying between £6 million-£8 million, was made for each month between October 1973-December 1974, with smaller notional amounts in July to September 1973.

The monthly monitoring and follow-up process takes some time to carry out, so that the evidence becomes available several months in arrear. The evidence now available for 1975 shows a distinct and sustained improvement so that the amount of net under-recording is again negligible. As a result it is no longer necessary to make any adjustment for net under-recording to the monthly export figures from January 1975 onwards.

Regular monitoring of the quality of recording will continue.

TABLE 15 Imports: Commodity classes¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

	1975					1976	Percentage change
	Year	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	1st qtr./4th qtr.
FOOD, BEVERAGES AND TOBACCO	4,346	1,013	1,004	1,120	1,208	1,020	−16
Food and live animals	3,931	907	904	1,016	1,104	923	−16
Meat and meat preparations	702	156	179	180	187	182	−2½
Dairy produce and eggs	523	91	118	164	149	117	−21
Cereals and animal feeding stuff	723	165	154	180	224	165	−26
Fruit and vegetables	700	155	156	195	194	210	+8
Other food and live animals	1,284	363	300	308	313	266	−15
Beverages and tobacco	414	106	100	104	105	97	−7½
Beverages	222	52	52	59	59	48	−20
Tobacco	192	55	48	44	46	50	+8½
FUELS	4,310	1,055	955	1,110	1,190	1,303	+9½
INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS	8,364	2,129	1,991	2,041	2,203	2,402	+9
Basic materials	2,214	582	545	519	568	676	+19
Crude materials	2,049	534	504	482	529	629	+19
Wood, lumber and cork	363	88	88	94	94	120	+28
Pulp and waste paper	358	106	95	75	83	104	+25
Textile fibres	263	53	63	76	71	94	+32
Metal ores	476	143	123	94	116	137	+18
Chemicals	1,409	364	320	331	394	430	+9½
Chemical elements and compounds	672	181	151	157	184	185	+1
Plastic materials	262	60	60	62	80	98	+23
Other semi-manufactures	4,741	1,182	1,126	1,191	1,242	1,295	+4½
Wood and cork manufactures	218	42	57	60	59	57	−3½
Paper and paperboard	623	168	151	142	162	171	+5
Textiles	683	162	167	172	182	202	+11
Non-metallic mineral manufactures	1,078	258	232	258	329	330	—
Iron and steel	821	227	183	211	200	200	—
Non-ferrous metals	820	204	205	230	182	210	+15
Miscellaneous metal manufactures	332	78	80	80	94	92	−2
FINISHED MANUFACTURES	6,655	1,538	1,524	1,836	1,757	1,818	+3½
Machinery	3,603	792	800	1,055	955	901	−5½
Electrical machinery	1,045	249	243	260	292	291	−½
Non-electrical machinery	2,557	543	557	795	663	610	−8
Road motor vehicles	883	195	224	229	234	264	+13
Other transport equipment*	297	96	71	70	60	95	+60
Other finished manufactures	1,872	444	445	472	511	553	+8
Clothing and footwear	628	144	152	156	176	191	+8½
Instruments	447	109	106	112	120	124	+3
MISCELLANEOUS	489	153	125	105	106	92	−13
TOTAL	24,163	5,879	5,632	6,191	6,462	6,612	+2½

¶ See note 1(b). * Not seasonally adjusted.

1(e) Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

1(f) Definition of area. The areas used in Table 3 of this article comprise the following countries:

EEC – Belgium, Denmark, France, Irish Republic, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and West Germany.

Rest of Western Europe – Andorra, Austria, Continental Shelf (Foreign Part), Faroe Islands, Finland, Gibraltar, Greece, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Vatican City and Yugoslavia.

North America – Canada, Puerto Rico, USA, US Virgin Islands, Greenland.

Other Industrialised – Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa.

Industrialised Countries – All the above.

Oil Exporting Countries – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Brunei, Dubai, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjahete, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

Rest of the World – All other countries.

The areas used in Tables 5, 10, 13 and 16 comprise the following countries: EEC, Rest of Western Europe, North America, Oil Exporting Countries as above.

Other Developed Countries – as Other Industrialised above.

Latin America – Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Canal Zone of Panama, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras (not British), Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Middle East and North Africa – Abu Dhabi, Algeria, Bahrein, Cyprus, Dubai, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah etc., Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen Arab Republic, Yemen People's Democratic Republic, Canary Islands and Spanish Ports in North Africa.

Centrally Planned Economies – Albania, Bulgaria, China, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, North Korea, North Vietnam, Outer Mongolia, Poland, Romania and Soviet Union.

Other Developing Countries – All other countries.

1(g) The invisible balance (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel and banking and financial transactions; net overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers.

1(h) Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 4) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in Tables 6, 9, 14 and 15. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil, and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in Table 4 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels totals in Tables 9 and 15. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels totals in Tables 6 and 14. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

1(i) Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume

TABLE 16 Imports: areas¶ (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif

	1975					1976	Percentage change
	Year	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	1st qtr.	1st qtr./4th qtr.
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES	17,433	4,230	4,054	4,506	4,643	4,686	+1
EEC	8,805	2,125	2,043	2,215	2,423	2,423	—
Belgium and Luxembourg	952	238	226	226	261	248	−5
Denmark	622	152	155	157	158	168	+6½
France	1,628	383	389	443	412	422	+2½
Irish Republic	921	217	209	247	248	215	−13
Italy	810	183	185	200	243	230	−5
Netherlands	1,873	452	394	459	568	567	—
West Germany	1,999	506	471	474	548	582	+6
REST OF W. EUROPE	3,566	825	787	1,013	941	978	+4
Finland	400	103	96	83	119	120	+1
Norway	593	100	97	286	111	116	+4½
Sweden	886	239	213	195	238	239	+1
Switzerland	737	169	157	187	224	223	−½
NORTH AMERICA	3,208	849	768	802	789	871	+10
USA and Dependencies	2,352	609	549	589	604	645	+6½
Canada	856	240	218	213	185	227	+23
OTHER	1,855	432	456	476	491	414	−16
Australia	280	64	85	66	64	77	+20
Japan	672	152	173	191	156	164	+5½
New Zealand	268	37	66	90	74	60	−19
South Africa	636	157	135	134	209	121	−42
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	5,940	1,503	1,371	1,517	1,549	1,702	+10
LATIN AMERICA	628	170	167	149	142	142	+½
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	3,022	768	692	811	751	919	+22
Iran	701	204	142	191	163	253	+55
Kuwait	419	129	81	106	104	106	+2
Saudi Arabia	857	224	222	220	191	228	+20
REST	2,290	564	512	557	656	640	−2½
Nigeria	310	83	58	78	91	77	−15
CENTRALLY PLANNED ECONOMIES	753	184	170	186	213	276	+30
Soviet Union	408	103	97	99	110	200	+81
TOTAL	24,163	5,879	5,632	6,191	6,462	6,612	+2½
of which:							
OIL EXPORTING COUNTRIES	3,274	834	751	864	825	941	+14

¶ See note 1(b) and 1(f).

index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply). Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to include North Sea oil production installations, however no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

2. Overseas Trade Statistics. Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for March 1976 (with cumulative totals) were published in April* and further analyses of the figures will be found in the tables on external trade in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics*.†

* *Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom*, March 1976, published by HMSO, price £4.75 (annual subscription £64.44).

† *Monthly Digest of Statistics*, published by HMSO, price £1.45 (annual subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage, £21.28).

Retailers' stocks in April

Based on the non-seasonally adjusted data of Table 1, the level of stocks at book value in April was 22 per cent higher than a year earlier; at constant prices it was 7 per cent higher. These increases are larger than those for recent months, reflecting the sharp decline in stocks in April 1975.

The estimates of value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices and seasonally adjusted (Table 2) suggest a small fall in stock levels in April, coinciding with an increased volume of retail sales.

Notes

1 The book value of retailers' stocks in the United Kingdom at end of December 1971 was £1,860 million.

2 With the introduction of VAT, the book values are being valued exclusive of this tax. There is, therefore, a discontinuity in the series in 1973 between March and April. For the year up to March, the usual comparisons with a year earlier for the book value series have not been given. As the basis of valuation is now comparable with that of a year earlier these percentages changes have been re-introduced. The estimates at constant prices take account of this method of valuation, and are on a consistent basis throughout.

3 For the estimates at constant prices, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which constant price changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

4 The statistics given in Table 2 were introduced in an article in the issue of 28 March 1975.

5 Long-run series back to 1966 for both Table 1 and Table 2 were included in the article in the issue of 26 September 1975.

TABLE 1 Level of retailers' stocks

Index numbers (end 1971 = 100) *and percentage increase on a year earlier* (At cost at end of month)

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
At book values:												
1971	89	91	94	95	95	97	95	95	98	106	110	100
1972	96	98	101	102	102	104	101	102	104	113	119	106
1973	103	106	111	111	111	115	115	116	121	131	140	129
1974	126	127	133	137	142	143	143	142	148	161	171	154
1975	148	151	159	155	160	163	162	163	173	191	205	185
1976	175	177	188	188								
1972	7	8	8	6	7	8	7	7	7	7	8	6
1973	7	8	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	—	—	—	24	28	24	24	22	23	22	22	20
1975	18	19	20	13	13	14	14	14	17	19	20	20
1976	18	17	18	22								
At constant (1970) prices:												
1971	95	97	99	99	98	99	96	96	99	107	111	100
1972	95	97	99	100	100	102	98	98	100	107	112	99
1973	96	99	103	108	111	114	112	112	116	124	131	120
1974	113	112	116	117	118	118	116	114	116	124	129	115
1975	108	109	112	107	109	109	108	107	112	122	130	116
1976	109	109	115	114								
1972	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	2	1	—	1	−1
1973	1	2	4	9	11	13	15	14	17	16	17	20
1974	18	14	13	8	6	3	3	1	—	—	−1	−3
1975	−5	−3	−4	−8	−8	−7	−7	−6	−4	−1	—	—
1976	—	1	2	7								

TABLE 2 Value of physical increase of retailers' stocks at 1970 prices

Seasonally adjusted £ million

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1971	−14	−1	−17	2	−18	16	−8	4	12	18	−8	4
1972	−9	3	−12	9	4	20	−16	12	−12	8	8	−26
1973	26	16	9	88	55	42	18	8	21	5	23	23
1974	−7	−54	2	14	25	−12	18	−29	−3	−5	1	−18
1975	−27	−24	−6	−83	35	−4	19	—	41	34	36	−15
1976	−26	−18	27	−14								

See note 2.

Retail sales – provisional estimates for May

Volume

The *provisional* estimate of the seasonally adjusted index of the volume of retail sales in May is 105½ (1971 = 100).

The estimate suggests that the volume of trade in May fell back to around the March level, following the increase in April which probably reflected the effects of the Budget measures. Sales by durable goods shops had risen sharply in April, and sales by food shops were also higher.

In the latest three months, March to May, the volume of sales was about 1½ per cent lower than in the previous three months, when trade was increased by comparatively buoyant 'sales' and the easing of certain restrictions on credit in the middle of December.

Value

Based on non-seasonally adjusted data, the *provisional* estimate of the value of total retail sales in May was 16 per cent higher than in May 1975. In the first five months of 1976, the average value of sales was 13 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1975.

	Retail sales: volume seasonally adjusted index (1971 = 100)		Retail sales: value not seasonally adjusted — percentage change compared with a year earlier
1975 1st quarter	111.3	1975 1st quarter	+22
2nd quarter	108.9	2nd quarter	+24
3rd quarter	105.5	3rd quarter	+18
4th quarter	105.8	4th quarter	+15
1976 1st quarter	107.3	1976 1st quarter	+15
1975 February	111.6	1975 February	+22
March	109.5	March	+21
April	120.0	April	+33
May	103.7	May	+19
1976 February	107.1	1976 February	+14
March	105.5	March	+13
April	108 5	April	+ 6
May	105½ (prov.)	May	+16 (prov.)

Notes

The volume index is given to the nearest half per cent. The percentage increase in value compared with a year earlier is given to the nearest whole number.

A detailed note on the method of computation of the provisional estimate was published in *Trade and Industry* on 21 February 1974.

Estimates are based on early returns to the monthly inquiry. These returns now cover approaching one half, by turnover, of information available at the final stage. Past evidence suggests that the average error (ignoring sign) in the provisional estimates will be about 0.5 per cent. However, as with all estimates based on partial data, caution must be exercised in interpreting a single month's figure.

When using the volume figures, it should be borne in mind that, when price increases are large, the various problems associated with revaluation of the value series to constant prices become more acute. Thus, the relative accuracy with which volume changes have been measured is likely to have been reduced in recent periods.

The value estimates are compiled inclusive of VAT, and will, therefore, reflect changes in the rates of VAT. The volume estimates, however, are not affected by these changes since the retail price indices used to 'deflate' the value data are themselves inclusive of VAT.

The seasonally adjusted series include, where appropriate, adjustments to make allowance for the inclusion of an extra week in the January 1975 trading period. No adjustments are made to the non-seasonally adjusted data.

The provisional figures are made available by press notice in advance of this article. The final figures for May will be published in a press notice on Monday, 5 July 1976.

Wholesale price indices in May

Output prices

The provisional price index for the home sales of manufactured products rose by 1½ per cent in May to 214.6 (1970 = 100). The increased duty on cigarettes announced in the Budget was responsible for an increase of ¼ per cent in this index.

The rise of 1¼ per cent in the provisional price index for manufactured goods other than food, drink and tobacco was slightly higher than expected from the recent quarterly pattern of price changes. Price rises for vehicles in late April made the most significant contribution. The latest three months to May show an increase of 3¼ per cent compared with 5¼ per cent in the same period last year.

Price increases for animal and poultry foods were mainly responsible for the rise of 1¼ per cent in the provisional price index for the output of the food manufacturing industries.

The change in the index for all manufactured products measured over a twelve-month period has now fallen for twelve successive months. The figure fell from 15¾ per cent for April to 14½ per cent for May.

Input prices

The provisional index for materials and fuel purchased by manufacturing industry rose by 2 per cent to 290.7.

The index for materials purchased by manufacturing industry other than the food, drink and tobacco industries rose by 2¾ per cent in May. This increase was again due to higher prices for a wide range of imported commodities and semi-manufactures reflecting the depreciation of the pound against major foreign currencies for the third successive month. This index has risen by 13 per cent in the three months March to May 1976.

Higher prices for a range of imported materials were responsible for the rise of ¾ per cent in the index for materials purchased by the food manufacturing industries. Price rises for home produced cereals were more than offset by lower prices for potatoes and milk for liquid consumption.

1970 = 100

	March	April p	May p
Output Prices (home sales)			
All manufactured products	208.6	211.4	214.6
Products of manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	216.6	219.2	222.2
Products of the food manufacturing industries	216.6	219.3	222.1
Prices of materials and fuel purchased			
By manufacturing industry	273.8	285.1	290.7
materials	279.9	290.8	297.0
coal, gas and electricity	215.8	230.4	230.7
By manufacturing industry other than food, drink and tobacco industries	290.2	305.1	312.2
materials	300.8	315.7	323.9
By food manufacturing industries	238.6	241.6	243.3
materials	238.7	241.4	243.1

p = provisional

The full article will be published next week.

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Turnover of the catering trades in April

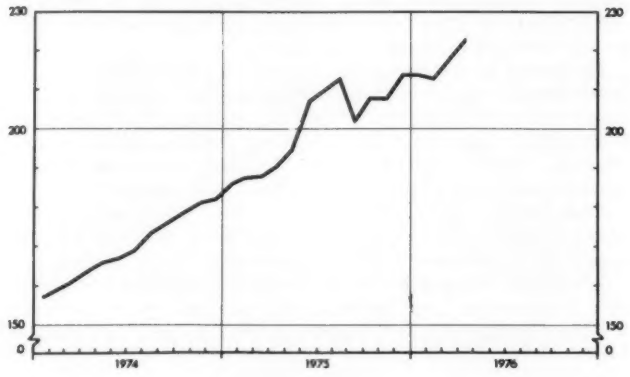
Catering turnover in April, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, continued to increase at about the same rate as last month.

The total turnover of the catering trades, at current prices and after seasonal adjustment, in the three months' period February to April 1976 was about 3 per cent more than in the preceding three months November 1975 to January 1976.

Value of catering trade turnover

Seasonally adjusted

1969 = 100



Recent percentage increases compared with a year earlier (*not* seasonally adjusted) for the main kinds of business are as follows:

	All caterers	Licensed hotels and holiday camps	Restaurants cafes and fish and chip shops	Public houses	Canteens
1975 4th quarter	17	16	13	20	14
1976 1st quarter	13	15	9	14	17
March	13	12	8	14	16
April	21	21	17	23	11

Note:
The Easter holiday fell entirely within the April trading period this year, whereas in 1975 it was in March.

Turnover for all caterers in the three months February to April 1976 was 15 per cent more than in the same period a year earlier. The largest increase was of 17 per cent for public houses (the largest component of the all-caterers index). Licensed hotels and holiday camps, and canteens, reported increases of 15 per cent whilst restaurants, cafes, and fish and chip shops showed an increase of 11 per cent.

TABLE 1 Turnover of all caterers seasonally adjusted

Index numbers of turnover per week† 1969 = 100

	Value at current prices (turnover in 1969 – £2,533 million)
1969	100
1970	108
1971	118
1972	131
1973	148
1974	170
1975	201
1974 1st quarter	159
2nd quarter	166
3rd quarter	173
4th quarter	180
1975 1st quarter	187
2nd quarter	198
3rd quarter	208
4th quarter	210
1976 1st quarter	215 r
1975 January*	186
February	188
March*	188
April	191
May	195
June*	207
July	210
August	213
September*	202
October	208
November	208
December*	214
1976 January	214
February	213
March*	218
April	223
1975 November-January 1976	212
1976 February-April	218
Percentage increase	3

† The monthly periods consist of four weeks except those marked * which are of five weeks. The April 1976 period was the four weeks from 4 April 1976 to 1 May 1976; the April 1975 period was the four weeks from 6 April 1975 to 3 May 1975. The series are now finally rebased using the detailed results of the large scale inquiry into the catering trades for 1969. A full report on the 1969 inquiry was published in November 1972 under the title 'Catering Trades 1969: Statistical Inquiry' (HMSO, 32p net).
r = revised figure.

Business Monitors

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Copies of specific issues (including back issues) can be ordered by post (payable in advance) from the Library at the Business Statistics Office, Cardiff Road, Newport, Gwent NPT 1XG (tel. 0633-56111, ext. 2973; telex 497121/497122 – Answer back BSO Newport), from which a complete list of the titles of Business Monitors is available on application. Back issues of the monthly and quarterly Monitors cost 30p a copy post free. The annual Monitors are individually priced and the cost of these will be supplied on request. Exceptionally, copies can also be purchased over the counter at the Department's Statistics and Market Intelligence Library, Export House, 50 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7HU.

The Annual Census of Production Reports (the PA series of Monitors), and the 1971 Census of Distribution Reports (which are being published as Monitors SD 10 to SD 23, though not all are yet available) can be obtained on standing order from Her Majesty's Stationery Office, PO Box 569, London SE1 9NH, or can be purchased separately from the Government bookshops or through booksellers.

Office development permits in the first quarter of 1976

The Department of the Environment reports that the total floor area comprised in office development permits issued in the first quarter of 1976 was 4.0 million sq. ft compared with 2.5 million sq. ft in the first quarter of 1975 and a quarterly average of 3.5 million sq. ft for 1975 as a whole. Seventy-nine permits were issued in the first quarter of 1976, 17 more than in the corresponding quarter of 1975.

After deduction of relinquishments of existing offices and of floorspace covered by permits for the continuing use of existing offices included in the total figures, there was a potential addition to office space by way of new building and conversion of non-office premises to office use of 2.1 million sq. ft in the first quarter of 1976. This compares with 1.6 million sq. ft for the corresponding quarter of 1975 and a quarterly average of 1.9 million sq. ft for 1975 as a whole.

Nineteen of the 79 permits issued in the first quarter of 1976 were for office development in Central London and covered 1.7 million sq. ft; 20 covering 0.7 million sq. ft were for development in Greater London excluding the centre; and 27 covering 1.1 million sq. ft for development in the Metropolitan Region outside Greater London. Thirteen permits for a total floorpsace of 0.6 million sq. ft were issued in the part of the South East Planning Region lying outside the Metropolitan Region.

Tables showing office development permits since 1965 appeared in the 12 March 1976 issue of *Trade and Industry*.

TABLE 1 Office development permits – sub-divisions of South East Planning Region

	Central London			Rest of Greater London			Total Greater London		
		Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.	
	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished
1974	51	4,606	609	72	2,532	229	123	7,138	838
1975	64	4,883	448	106	5,414	442	170	10,297	890
1975 1st quarter	10	692	128	21	959	90	31	1,651	218
2nd quarter	25	2,586	202	21	934	37	46	3,520	239
3rd quarter	11	469	15	36	1,784	49	47	2,253	64
4th quarter	18	1,136	103	28	1,737	266	46	2,873	369
1976 1st quarter	19	1,682	449	20	687	67	39	2,369	516

TABLE 1 Office development permits – sub-divisions of South East Planning Region *(continued)*

	Metropolitan Region (excluding Greater London)			Total Metropolitan Region			South East (excluding Metropolitan Region)			Total South East		
		Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.			Thousand sq. ft.	
	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished	Number	Gross	Relinquished
1974	62	3,222	329	185	10,360	1,167	41	1,550	93	226	11,910	1,260
1975	86	2,258	51	256	12,555	941	46	1,319	113	302	13,874	1,054
1975 1st quarter	14	382	26	45	2,033	244	17	437	84	62	2,470	328
2nd quarter	16	487	5	62	4,007	244	13	423	19	75	4,430	263
3rd quarter	32	871	—	79	3,124	64	8	283	7	87	3,407	71
4th quarter	24	518	20	70	3,391	389	8	176	3	78	3,567	392
1976 1st quarter	27	1,053	45	66	3,422	561	13	627	3	79	4,049	564

Notes to tables

Application of Controls. Control was announced in November 1964 and applied to the Metropolitan Region (London and part of the South East Region) and Birmingham. In July 1966 control was extended to the whole South East and Midlands Regions and to East Anglia. In 1969 East Anglia and the rural Midlands were excluded and since 1970 control has remained in force only in the South East Region.

Modifications to Controls. Since December 1970 the exemption limit for permits throughout the South East Region has been 10,000 sq. ft. Office development permits are not now required for offices ancillary to industrial development covered by an appropriate industrial development certificate.

Definition of Areas.

CENTRAL LONDON – As defined in the General Register Office's 'Census 1961, County Report: London'.

METROPOLITAN REGION – From 1 January 1972, for statistical purposes only, the Outer Metropolitan sub-division (rest of Metropolitan Region) is as defined in the Regional Abstract of Statistics No. 7. Otherwise the Metropolitan Region is as defined in Section 85 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 as amended by article 13 of the Local Authorities, etc. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Order 1974 (SI 1974 No. 482).

SOUTH EAST PLANNING REGION – From 1 January 1972, for statistical purposes only, the Outer South East sub-division (rest of South East Planning Region) is as defined in the Regional Abstract of Statistics No. 7. Otherwise the South East Planning Region corresponds to the standard region for statistical purposes as defined in the *Board of Trade Journal* of 31 December 1965, page 1567, as amended with effect from 18 July 1974 in accordance with the Control of Office Development (Designation of Areas) (Variation) Order 1974 (SI 1974 No. 1054) to correspond with the new standard region adjusted to take account of local government re-organisation.

Area Relinquished. Comprises office floor space relinquished for demolition or change of use to non-office uses.

Registrations of British, community and foreign films

The following are details of films registered by the Department of Trade under the Films Acts 1960 to 1970, as amended by the European Communities Act 1972, during the week ended Friday, 11 June 1976.

BR/E indicates that the film is a British quota film, EC that the film is a quota film. The date which forms part of the registration number of each is the date on which quota life of the film expires.

Title of film	Registered no.	Playing time minutes	Date of registration	Registered in the name of	Maker's name
			BRITISH		
Movietone News 2453	BR/E 38361/13/6/81	8	11 June	British Movietonews Ltd.	British Movietonews Ltd.
			FOREIGN		
Le Desire	F 38657	84	11 June	Hemdale International Films Ltd.	Contrechamps S.A. Paris.
Abduction	F 38658	94	11 June	Hemdale International Films Ltd.	International Film Distributors Inc., New York.

Corrections to the Register

The registration number of the film 'Review no. 10 (29th Year)' registered on 4 June 1976 has been corrected to BR/E 38655/6/6/81.

The registration number of the film 'Great' registered on 28 May 1976 has been corrected to BR/E 38619/30/5/81.

Current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments for May

In May 1976 the current account is estimated to have been in deficit by £212 million. The deficit on trade in goods was £342 million, seasonally adjusted, and the balance on services and other current transactions is estimated to have been running at a monthly surplus of about £130 million.

In the three months March to May 1976 there was a current account deficit of £228 million compared with £235 million in the previous three months.

£ million seasonally adjusted

	Current balance	Visible balance: Trade in goods (c)	Invisible balance: Services and other current transactions
1974	−3,611	−5,264	+1,653
1975	−1,700	−3,200	+1,500
1975 1st quarter	−466	−850	+384
2nd quarter	−360	−681	+321
3rd quarter	−571	−986	+415
4th quarter	−303	−683	+380
1976 1st quarter	−60	−470	+410
1975 December	−58	−185	+127 (b)
1976 January	−60	−197	+137 (b)
February	−117	−253	+136 (b)
March	+117	−20	+137 (b)
April	−133	−263	+130 (a)
May	−212	−342	+130 (a)
1975 Dec.-Feb. 1976	−235	−635	+400
1976 March-May	−228	−625	+397

(a) These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.

(b) One third of the appropriate calendar quarter's estimate. Monthly figures of invisibles are not available.

(c) The division between trade in oil and non-oil goods is no longer shown in this table. See Note (1) to Editors.

TABLE 1 Visible trade on balance of payments basis

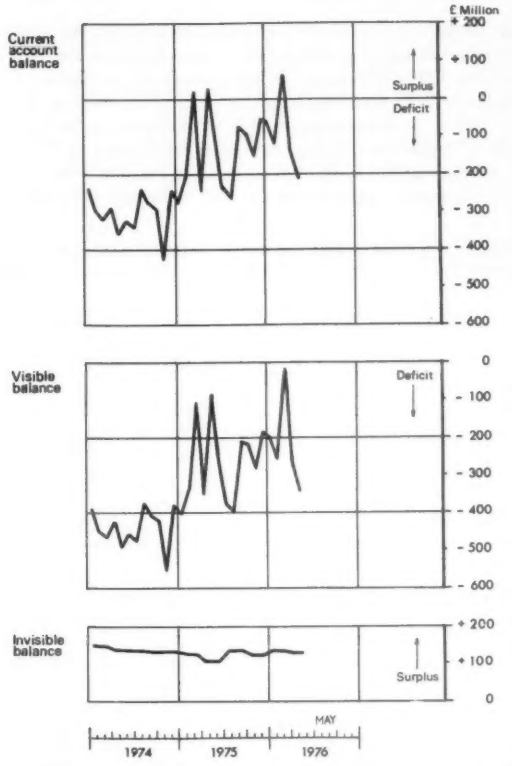
Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

	Exports (fob)	Imports (fob)	Visible balance
1974	15,895	21,159	−5,264
1975	18,772	21,972	−3,200
1974 1st quarter	3,481	4,778	−1,297
2nd quarter	4,007	5,373	−1,366
3rd quarter	4,222	5,475	−1,253
4th quarter	4,185	5,533	−1,348
1975 1st quarter	4,532	5,382	−850
2nd quarter	4,479	5,160	−681
3rd quarter	4,635	5,621	−986
4th quarter	5,126	5,809	−683
1976 1st quarter r	5,441	5,911	−470
1975 December	1,761	1,946	−185
1976 January r	1,777	1,974	−197
February r	1,751	2,004	−253
1976 March r	1,913	1,933	−20
April r	1,948	2,211	−263
May p	2,014	2,356	−342
1975 Dec.-Feb. 1976	5,269	5,942	−635
Mar.-May	5,876	6,500	−625
Percentage change*	+11	+9½	

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

* Percentage change: latest three months on previous three months.

Analysis of the current account of the United Kingdom balance of payments



United Kingdom trade

on a balance of payments basis

seasonally adjusted (except Unit Value Index)

Value: £million fob

Indices 1970 = 100

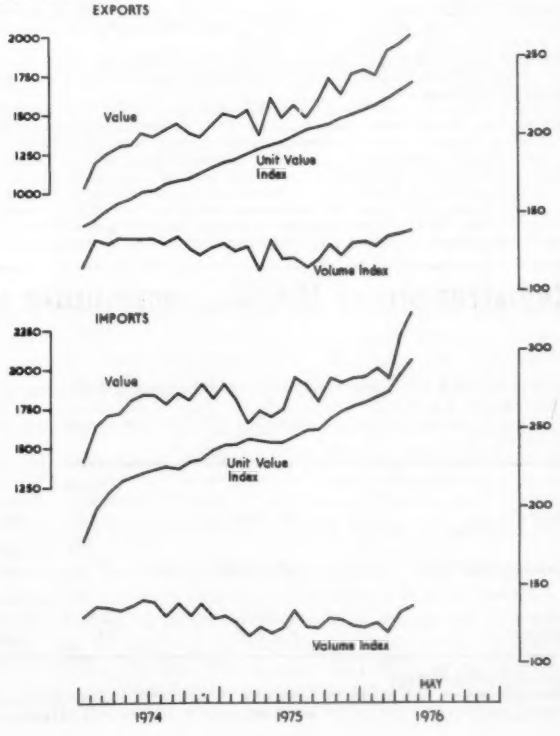


TABLE 2 Invisible trade ¶

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million

		Credits	Debits	Invisible balance
1974		9,991	8,338	+1,653
1975		11,086	9,586	+1,500
1974	1st quarter	2,446	1,998	+448
	2nd quarter	2,454	2,047	+407
	3rd quarter	2,459	2,058	+401
	4th quarter	2,632	2,235	+397
1975	1st quarter	2,684	2,300	+384
	2nd quarter	2,723	2,402	+321
	3rd quarter	2,804	2,389	+415
	4th quarter	2,875	2,495	+380
1976	1st quarter	2,997	2,587	+410
	April			+130*
	May			+130*

¶ See note 1 (g).
* These figures are projections and are subject to revision as information becomes available.

TABLE 3 Export and import unit value and volume index numbers on a balance of payments basis

Indices 1970 = 100

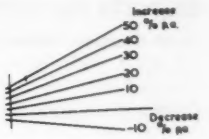
		Unit values (not seasonally adjusted)			Volume (seasonally adjusted)	
		Exports	Imports	Terms of trade†	Exports	Imports
1974		162.7	218.0	74.6	130.1	135.2
1975		198.5	245.7	80.8	124.9	125.6
1974	1st quarter	147.2	194.9	75.5	126.7	133.9
	2nd quarter	159.9	218.7	73.1	134.0	137.5
	3rd quarter	168.1	224.5	74.9	133.4	136.4
	4th quarter	175.8	231.7	75.9	126.5	133.0
1975	1st quarter	184.9	240.5	76.9	128.9	125.4
	2nd quarter	193.4	241.1	80.2	122.6	122.2
	3rd quarter	202.2	247.1	81.8	120.0	127.4
	4th quarter	210.1	260.4	80.7	128.3	127.2
1976	1st quarter r	219.0	270.0	81.1	132.1	123.8
1975	December	212.6	264.8	80.3	130.9	124.7
1976	January r	215.6	266.3	81.0	131.9	125.8
	February r	218.9	269.5	81.2	128.4	125.4
1976	March r	222.6	274.1	81.2	136.1	120.3
	April r	228.4	284.8	80.2	136.5	131.1
	May p	233.8	293.5	79.7	138.4	137.1
1975	Dec.-Feb. 1976	215.7	266.9	80.8	130.4	125.3
	Mar.-May	228.3	284.1	80.4	137.0	129.5
	Percentage change	+6	+6½	−½	+5	+3½

† Export Unit Value Index as a percentage of the Import Unit Value Index.
p Provisional estimates.
r Revised estimates.

Exports by areas

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million cif seasonally adjusted log scale



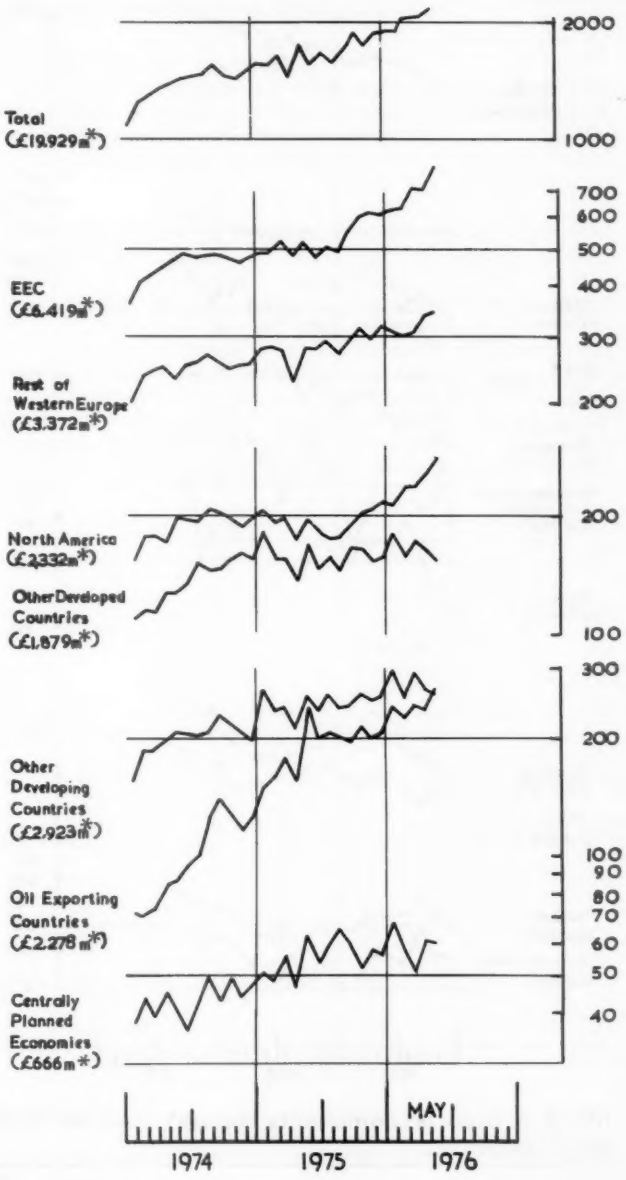


TABLE 4 Exports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

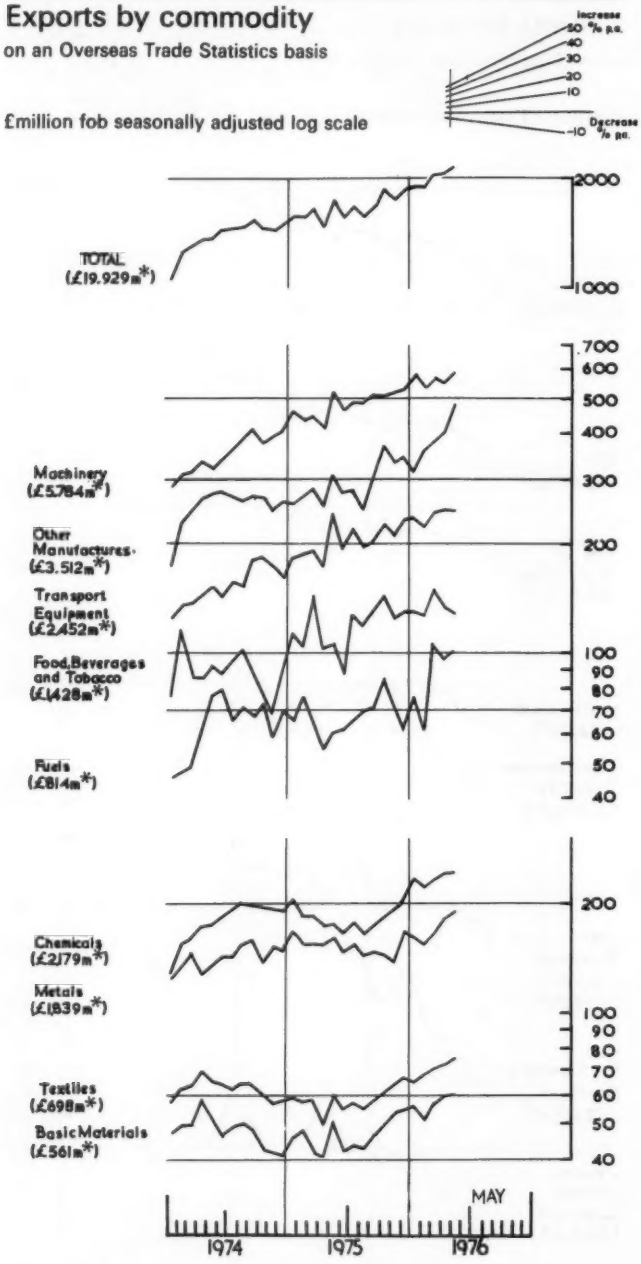
		Developed countries				Developing countries		
	Total	EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	Centrally planned economies
1975	19,929	6,419	3,372	2,332	1,879	2,278	2,923	666
1975 2nd quarter	4,744	1,494	782	553	451	585	699	163
3rd quarter	4,940	1,560	847	544	465	596	732	183
4th quarter	5,464	1,851	915	632	472	614	759	167
1976 1st quarter	5,775	1,969	916	695	508	704	842	175
1976 March	2,014	711	308	240	172	241	294	51
April r	2,042	704	335	257	163	234	265	61
May p	2,136	801	341	280	153	263	257	60
1975 December-February 1976	5,615	1,876	912	673	494	668	802	180
March-May	6,192	2,216	984	777	488	738	816	172
Percentage change	+10	+18	+7	+15	−1½	+10	+2	−4½

¶ See Note 1 (b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

Exports by commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million fob seasonally adjusted log scale



VISIBLE TRADE

(a) Summary (figures on a balance of payments basis) (see Tables 1 and 3)

In May there was a deficit on visible trade of £342 million, seasonally adjusted; the value of exports was £2,014 million and the value of imports £2,356 million. The deficit was £79 million more than in April, exports rising by £66 million and imports by £145 million. The May figures show some further effects of the depreciation of sterling. The import unit value index rose by 3 per cent between April and May and the export unit value index by 2½ per cent. As a result, the terms of trade index decreased by ½ per cent in April. In terms of volume, exports rose by 1½ per cent and imports by 4½ per cent.

In the three months ended May, the deficit on visible trade, at £625 million, was little different from that of £635 million in the previous three months. Exports were valued at £5,876 million, a rise of 11 per cent between the two three-monthly periods while imports, at £6,500 million, were 9½ per cent higher. The volume of exports increased by 5 per cent compared with a rise of 3½ per cent in the volume of imports. There was a fall of ½ per cent in the terms of trade index, the export unit value index rising by 6 per cent and the import unit value index by 6½ per cent.

(b) Exports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

(i) Area analysis (see Table 4). The value of exports to the developed countries in aggregate was 13 per cent higher in March/May than in the preceding three months. Exports to North America and to the EEC continued to rise strongly, by 15 per cent and 18 per cent respectively. Exports to the rest of Western Europe rose by 7 per cent. There was a decrease of 1½ per cent in shipments to the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan). Exports to the developing countries in aggregate rose by 5½ per cent including a 10 per cent rise to the oil exporting countries. The value of exports to the centrally planned economies fell by 4½ per cent.

(ii) Commodity analysis (see Tables 5, 6 and 7). In the three months March/May exports of manufactured goods were 9½ per cent higher by value and 3½ per cent by volume than in the previous three months. Within this broad category, exports of metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures and textiles rose by 11 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, reflecting substantial volume increases combined with higher prices, and there was a 9½ per cent rise in exports of chemicals, mainly because of higher prices. Exports of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment rose by 6½ per cent in value, the result of higher prices. Within this category there was an increase of 13 per cent in the value of exports of road motor vehicles and a fall of 9 per cent in the value of exports of other transport equipment. Exports of other manufactures rose 24 per cent by value and 18 per cent by volume, largely the result of recent high shipments of precious stones. The value of exports of non-manufactures rose by 20 per cent. Within this the largest increase was in exports of fuels which rose 53 per cent by value and 44 per cent by volume. There was a 7 per cent rise in the value of exports of food,

TABLE 5 Exports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million fob

		Manufactures												
							Machinery and transport equipment							
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures	Miscellaneous
1975	19,929	1,428	561	814	16,464	8,236	5,784	1,737	715	2,179	1,839	698	3,512	662
1975 2nd quarter	4,744	295	135	178	3,963	2,012	1,391	418	191	512	462	163	837	157
3rd quarter	4,940	373	134	207	4,079	2,112	1,486	451	165	516	447	170	825	169
4th quarter	5,464	396	156	219	4,518	2,208	1,564	456	210	579	451	190	1,045	179
1976 1st quarter	5,775	404	164	243	4,763	2,376	1,679	512	190	683	484	204	1,048	194
1976 March	2,014	149	57	106	1,635	793	566	180	63	231	167	71	380	63
April r	2,042	134	59	97	1,699	814	556	193	54	242	181	73	402	59
May p	2,136	128	61	102	1,793	831	589	178	68	244	190	76	476	56
1975 Dec.-Feb. 1976	5,615	384	162	199	4,691	2,337	1,648	488	204	653	486	200	1,013	182
Mar.-May	6,192	411	177	305	5,127	2,437	1,710	552	186	716	538	220	1,257	178
Percentage change	+10	+7	+9	+53	+9½	+4½	+4	+13	−9	+9½	+11	+10	+24	−2

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶ See note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

beverages and tobacco and a 9 per cent rise in the value of basic materials, both increases reflecting higher prices.

(c) Imports (Overseas Trade Statistics basis)

(i) Commodity Analysis (see Tables 8, 10 and 11). Imports of food, beverages and tobacco increased by 8½ per cent by value, 4 per cent by volume, in the three months ended May compared with the previous three months. Between these periods the value of imports of fuels increased by 4½ per cent, entirely the result of higher prices, while industrial materials rose by 11 per cent, mainly the result of higher prices. Within this broad category, basic materials were 16 per cent higher with volume rising a little faster than price. Imports of chemicals and other semi-manufactures rose, in value terms, by 10 per cent and 9 per cent respectively and in each case higher prices were the main influence. Imports of finished manufactures rose by 2½ per cent in terms of volume but higher prices led to a value increase of 12 per cent. Within this group imports of machinery were 12 per cent higher by value, mainly the result of higher prices, and there was a rise of 31 per cent in the value of road motor vehicles and other transport equipment, with higher volume contributing about two-thirds of the increase. Imports of road motor vehicles increased in value terms by 16 per cent while the value of other transport equipment nearly doubled, reflecting the import of several large aircraft in the latest three months.

(ii) Area analysis (see Table 9). The value of imports from the developed countries in aggregate was 12 per cent higher in March/May than in the previous three months. There was a rise of 25 per cent in imports from North America, in part reflecting the arrival of several large aircraft, while deliveries from the EEC were 11 per cent higher. Imports from the rest of Western Europe and the other developed countries (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Japan) increased by 7 per cent and 3 per cent respectively. Imports from the developing countries in aggregate were 2½ per cent higher: within this group there was a fall of 1 per cent in imports from the oil exporting countries and an increase of 6½ per cent from other developing countries. Imports from the centrally planned economies were 6 per cent higher.

INVISIBLE TRADE (see Table 2)

The estimate of the running monthly surplus on services and other current transactions has been revised upwards from £120 million to £130 million with monthly credits and debits of the order of £1,000 million and £850 million respectively.

NOTES

1(a) Trade figures on a Balance of Payments basis. The seasonally adjusted import and export figures on a Balance of Payments basis are obtained by making various adjustments to the seasonally adjusted figures derived from those recorded in the monthly *Overseas Trade Statistics*. These adjustments are summarised in Table 13 of this article. Some are valuation adjustments; the principal of these is the deduction from the import figure of freight and insurance costs. The other adjustments relate to coverage, either to bring in items not in the Trade Statistics (for example on the import side ships built and delivered abroad direct to UK owners) or to remove items which are in the Trade Statistics (mainly returned

TABLE 6 Exports: volume indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
Weights	1,000	64	34	26	844	410	276	134	97	119	49	169
1975	129.8	155	107	93	130	133	136	128	142	102	105	145
1975 2nd quarter	127.2	133	103	87	129	133	134	130	135	103	100	143
3rd quarter	125.1	149	104	91	127	133	138	123	136	97	103	131
4th quarter	133.7	170	118	90	133	131	134	130	145	93	113	130
1976 1st quarter	137.2	166	119	93	137	136	139	130	168	101	117	159
1976 March	140.3	178	119	120	138	132	137	131	165	102	121	170
April r	140.0	153	121	110	141	134	132	132	169	108	124	177
May p	143.6	143	120	109	146	135	139	128	167	115	125	198
1975 December-February 1976	135.4	161	120	78	137	136	139	131	163	101	116	154
March-May	141.3	158	120	113	142	134	136	130	167	108	123	182
Percentage change	+4½	−2	+½	+44	+3½	−2	−2	−½	+2½	+7½	+6	+18

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 7 Exports: unit value indices Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

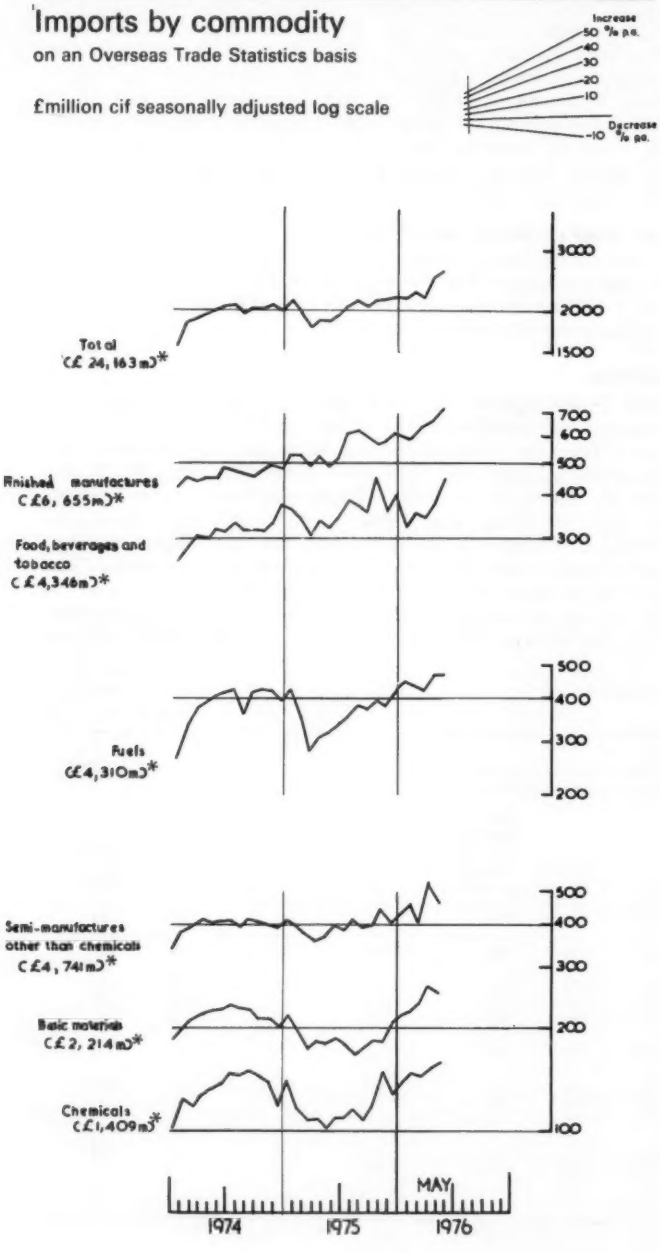
					Manufactures							
						Machinery and transport equipment						
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Basic materials	Fuels	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Chemicals	Metals and miscellaneous metal manufactures	Textiles	Other manufactures
1975	198.3	178	198	439	193	195	200	189	209	194	177	180
1975 2nd quarter	193.4	176	199	421	188	190	192	185	209	189	177	172
3rd quarter	202.0	183	200	442	197	201	202	201	209	195	177	185
4th quarter	210.1	187	202	474	205	213	217	203	211	202	180	192
1976 1st quarter r	218.9	192	211	496	214	224	231	210	219	206	185	199
1976 March	222.5	198	217	503	217	229	236	214	223	207	188	202
April r	228.5	208	219	515	223	237	244	222	228	210	187	207
May p	233.8	209	228	537	228	241	247	231	230	215	195	214
1975 December-February 1976	215.6	189	206	491	210	220	226	208	216	205	183	197
March-May	228.3	205	221	518	223	236	242	222	227	211	190	208
Percentage change	+6	+8½	+7½	+5½	+6	+7	+7½	+7	+5	+3	+3½	+5½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

Imports by commodity

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million cif seasonally adjusted log scale



goods and goods for processing and repair). The adjustment of imports to a balance of payments basis excludes the values of deliveries of US military aircraft (including spares and some missiles) but includes the payments for those imports which are mainly being financed by a special Exim Bank credit (the values involved are now small). All these adjustments are described in greater detail in the annual '*Pink Book*' *United Kingdom Balance of Payments 1964-74* (Table 4 and pages 64-67) and in an article in the issue of *Trade and Industry* dated 4 November 1970.

Since firm figures for the adjustments do not become available as quickly as the recorded trade statistics, the figures for imports and exports on a balance of payments basis in the latest months are at this stage preliminary estimates and liable to revision.

1(b). The adjustments described at Note 1(a) are made only for the monthly totals of exports and imports (Table 1) and the monthly figures of trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 12). They are not estimated for the area and other commodity analyses of trade. The values of total trade and the main components of exports and imports in Tables 4 to 11 are available only on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis. Whereas comment on total trade and trade in petroleum and petroleum products relates to figures for exports and imports on a balance of payments basis, analyses of the area and other commodity patterns of trade in this article are based on the figures on the Overseas Trade Statistics basis in Tables 4 to 11. The main components of trade are seasonally adjusted independently from the totals and in consequence do not always add exactly to the seasonally adjusted totals.

1(c) Visible balance. The visible balance is the difference between the import and export figures on a balance of payments basis obtained as described in Note 1(a) above. Since, as noted above, the import and export figures for the most recent months are provisional, it follows that the monthly visible balances for these months are also provisional and liable to revision.

The monthly figures for the visible balance are published only on a seasonally adjusted basis. Since the balance is the difference of two large and variable figures, it is itself liable to fluctuation and undue significance should not be attached to a single month's figure; it is more useful to consider the average balance over three or more months.

1(d) Trends. Even after allowing for seasonal influences, the sequence of monthly figures is usually too variable to give a satisfactory indication of the underlying trend. While it is possible to construct elaborate estimates of trend these cannot be applied to the most recent months, and a simple method of giving some guidance on underlying movements in the most recent past is to take averages of three months. Apart from occasions when major disturbances distort the flows of trade, the three-monthly average gives a quite good short-term guide and has the merit of simplicity.

1(e) Recording of exports. The present system for the documentation of exports aimed at securing their full recording was introduced in October 1971; the system, and the methods used to monitor the

TABLE 8 Imports: commodity classes¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values — £ million cif

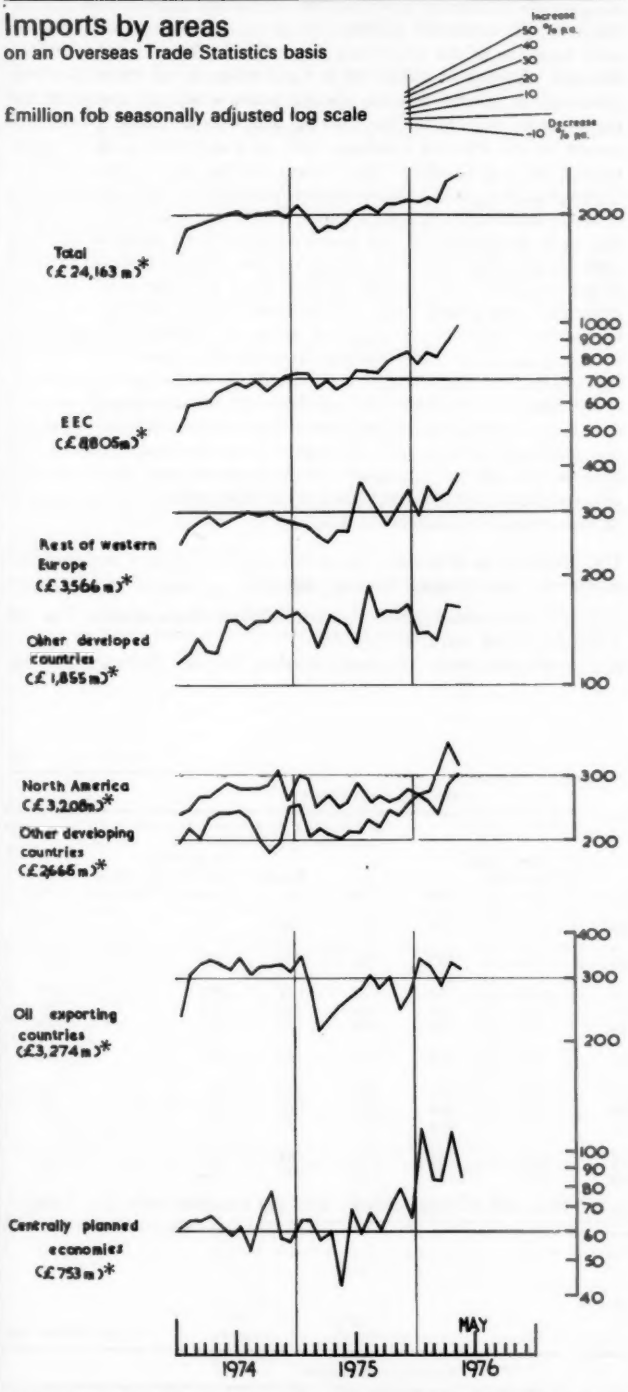
					Industrial materials				Finished manufactures						
										Machinery and transport equipment					
		Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles	Other transport equipment*	Other	Miscellaneous
1975		24,163	4,346	4,310	8,364	2,214	1,409	4,741	6,655	4,782	3,603	883	297	1,872	489
1975	2nd quarter	5,632	1,004	955	1,991	545	320	1,126	1,524	1,079	800	224	71	445	125
	3rd quarter	6,191	1,120	1,110	2,041	519	331	1,191	1,836	1,364	1,055	229	70	472	105
	4th quarter	6,462	1,208	1,190	2,203	568	394	1,242	1,757	1,246	955	234	60	511	106
1976	1st quarter	6,612	1,020	1,303	2,402	676	430	1,295	1,818	1,265	901	264	95	553	92
1976	March	2,181	344	421	788	236	146	407	631	443	311	87	50	188	29
	April r	2,500	379	465	949	262	152	536	670	486	336	102	50	184	38
	May p	2,577	442	468	875	251	159	464	712	508	382	114	20	204	35
1975	Dec.-Feb. 1976	6,626	1,074	1,293	2,352	647	414	1,291	1,796	1,252	916	262	62	543	98
	Mar.-May	7,258	1,165	1,353	2,613	749	457	1,407	2,014	1,437	1,029	303	121	576	102
	Percentage change	+9½	+8½	+4½	+11	+16	+10	+9	+12	+15	+12	+16	+96	+6	+4

* Not seasonally adjusted. ¶See Note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

Imports by areas

on an Overseas Trade Statistics basis

£million fob seasonally adjusted log scale



accuracy of the resulting figures, were described in an article in *Trade and Industry*, 15 February 1973.

Regular assessments of the quality of recording indicated that, from the beginning of 1972 until late 1973 there was no need to make adjustments to the export figures for a shortfall in documentation. Some errors in recording remained, whereby either the need to submit a document was overlooked or, on the other hand, two documents might be submitted for the same goods. The amount of these errors had been substantially reduced, and they more or less balanced out, leaving the total recorded figure of exports in each month virtually correct.

From the autumn of 1973 until the end of 1974, however, there was evidence of a slight deterioration causing a small net amount of under-recording of about half of one per cent. In view of this evidence an adjustment, varying between £6 million and £8 million, was made for each month between October 1973 and December 1974, with smaller notional amounts in July to September 1973.

The monthly monitoring and follow-up process takes some time to carry out, so that the evidence becomes available several months in arrear. The evidence now available for 1975 shows a distinct and sustained improvement so that the amount of net under-recording is again negligible. As a result it is no longer necessary to make any adjustment for net under-recording to the monthly export figures from January 1975 onwards.

Regular monitoring of the quality of recording will continue.

1(f) Timing. The figures for exports relate to documents received in the Statistical Office of HM Customs and Excise up to a few days before the end of the calendar month. On average export documents arrive at the Customs Statistical Office within a fortnight of the shipment of goods, so that the documents relate to goods passing through the ports in the month ending about the middle of the calendar month to which they are attributed. The figures for imports relate to documents received at the Customs Statistical Office up to the third working day after the end of the month. Importers are usually required to present their documents before they can obtain Customs clearance and remove the goods. Thus the import statistics correspond closely to movements through the ports during the calendar month to which they are attributed.

1(g) Invisible trade (services and other current transactions) covers the following items: Government services and transfer payments; all other services including sea and air transport, travel, and insurance, banking and other financial transactions; overseas income in the form of interest, profits and dividends; and private transfers. The monthly figures are inevitably less precise than those for visible trade for several reasons: the data are not available on a monthly basis (some are reported quarterly, others less frequently) and the figures are, therefore, essentially projections based on past trends though subject to modification for special factors (eg timing of quarterly EEC contributions and receipts) which affect the trend; revisions, affecting particularly gross credits and debits, but often the balance as well, are more frequent; and the gross figures themselves include a number of items which are appropriately recorded as the net profit or surplus arising on the transactions.

1(h) Trade in petroleum and petroleum products. Trade in petroleum and petroleum products (Table 12) accounts for almost all the trade in Fuels, Section 3 of SITC(R) which is included in

TABLE 9 Imports: areas¶ Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted values

£ million cif

	Total	Developed countries				Developing countries		Centrally planned economies
		EEC	Rest of W. Europe	North America	Other	Oil exporting countries	Other	
1975	24,163	8,805	3,566	3,208	1,855	3,274	2,666	753
1975 2nd quarter	5,632	2,043	787	768	456	751	620	170
3rd quarter	6,191	2,215	1,013	802	476	864	652	186
4th quarter	6,462	2,423	941	789	491	825	724	213
1976 1st quarter	6,612	2,423	978	871	414	941	760	276
1976 March	2,181	815	328	329	134	282	238	81
April r	2,500	900	352	370	166	328	282	111
May p	2,577	982	383	324	163	318	305	84
1975 December-February 1976	6,626	2,438	994	819	449	939	773	260
March-May	7,258	2,697	1,063	1,024	463	928	825	276
Percentage change	+9½	+11	+7	+25	+3	−1	+6½	+6

¶ See Note 1(b). r Revised estimates. p Provisional estimates.

Tables 5 and 8. Import and export figures are shown for crude oil and for the rest of the division which includes petroleum partly refined for further refining and petroleum products (eg motor spirit, lamp oil and white spirit, distillate fuels, residual fuel oils, lubricating oils and greases, etc.).

The figures of value and tonnage of crude oil imports in Table 12 are based on reports to HM Customs and Excise and have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels totals in Tables 5 and 8. These figures cannot be directly compared with the monthly import tonnages originating from the Department of Energy which are published in the *Monthly Digest of Statistics* and the *Digest of Energy Statistics*, as the latter are based on reports received directly from the oil industry and are unadjusted. Over longer periods the differences between the two sources are largely resolved.

For imports the average value of crude oil per ton has been obtained by dividing the value of crude oil imports by the tonnage and will reflect not only changes in price but also changes in the commodity mix of imports due, for example, to differing qualities of crude oil.

The figures of value of crude oil exports have been seasonally adjusted with the same seasonal and length of month factors as have been used for the Fuels total in Table 5. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

1(i) Unit value and volume indices. A brief description of the way in which the index numbers on a balance of payments basis are calculated was published in the article giving unit value and volume index numbers for March 1971 in *Trade and Industry* of 26 May 1971. An article was published in *Trade and Industry* on 11 October 1973 introducing the series of import and export unit value and volume indices with 1970 = 100. The purpose of the index numbers is to measure the changes in price and volume of our imports and exports. Index numbers can be constructed in various ways, and the series used here are of the fixed base type. Thus, the unit value indices measure changes in 'price' of a fixed selection of trade headings (although in practice it is not specific prices which are measured but the average price of all the varying transactions taking place each month in the selected headings, reflecting different kinds of goods covered by each heading and different markets or sources of supply). Correspondingly, the volume indices measure, for the same selection of trade headings, what the change in the value of trade would be assuming no changes in the prices charged from those in the base year. Because the indices are base weighted, they do not take account of the changes in the pattern of trade since the base year, and consequently their product does not precisely account for the change in the value of trade expressed as an index. In practice, though, since the composition of trade changes little between consecutive months, the product of the changes in the indices will often approximate to the change in the value of trade between one month and the next. A full methodological article about the 1970-based series of indices was published in the April 1975 issue of *Economic Trends*. Adjustments have been made to the import volume index to include North Sea oil production installations, however no changes have been made to the base-weighted unit value index.

1(j) Definition of areas. The areas used in Tables 4 and 9 of this article comprise of the following countries:

EEC – West Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Denmark and Irish Republic.
Rest of Western Europe – Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Switzer-

TABLE 10 Imports: volume indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
Weights	1,000	227	105	427	151	60	216	229	166	133	33	63
1975	124.4	98	89	113	78	122	135	183	182	176	203	186
1975 2nd quarter	120.0	92	85	111	79	112	132	174	170	164	207	184
3rd quarter	126.1	101	91	111	74	117	135	191	193	189	200	187
4th quarter	127.6	107	90	116	78	133	138	182	179	177	190	188
1976 1st quarter	125.7	91	90	123	92	143	140	183	177	164	224	198
1976 March	122.9	91	87	118	93	142	128	182	180	164	252	188
April r	136.0	96	91	137	102	140	162	189	191	172	275	185
May p	135.9	111	92	122	91	146	137	194	194	187	236	196
1975 Dec.-Feb. 1976	127.2	96	90	122	89	139	141	184	178	169	207	201
March-May	131.6	99	90	126	96	143	142	189	188	174	254	189
Percentage change	+3½	+4	—	+3	+7½	+3	+1	+2½	+6	+3½	+23	−5½

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

TABLE 11 Imports: unit value indices
Overseas Trade Statistics basis

Not seasonally adjusted — Indices 1970 = 100

				Industrial materials				Finished manufactures				
									Machinery and transport equipment			
	Total	Food, beverages and tobacco	Fuels	Total	Basic materials	Chemicals	Other semi-manufactures	Total	Total	Machinery	Road motor vehicles and other transport equipment	Other
1975	235.9	219	535	199	215	229	180	188	183	181	194	200
1975 2nd quarter	231.9	219	506	198	213	236	177	186	181	179	191	197
3rd quarter	237.6	217	536	200	213	230	182	196	192	189	204	207
4th quarter	249.5	223	591	206	222	234	187	205	199	197	210	220
1976 1st quarter	258.8	228	636	210	226	239	190	213	207	204	221	226
1976 March	262.4	230	640	213	227	244	193	220	216	212	230	232
April r	273.1	240	662	221	237	256	201	228	224	219	242	239
May p	281.6	243	682	232	249	266	211	233	230	224	254	242
1975 Dec.-Feb. 1976	255.8	226	629	208	225	235	189	208	202	200	213	222
March-May	272.4	238	661	222	238	255	202	227	223	219	242	238
Percentage change	+6½	+5	+5	+6½	+5½	+8½	+7	+9½	+10	+9½	+14	+7

p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

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1(k) Revisions to trade figures. As a result of later and more complete information the previously published figures of imports and exports on a balance of payments basis have been revised.
1(l) The division of the visible trade balance between trade in petroleum and petroleum products and trade in other goods previously given in the first table of the article has now been discontinued. The chart analysing the current balance has been altered correspondingly.

When the distinction between the oil and non-oil components of the balance was introduced early in 1974 it served to illustrate the immediate impact of the exceptional rise in the price of crude oil on our visible trade position. The passage of time has meant that the indirect effects of that price rise, including inter alia the large growth of our exports to the oil exporting countries, have made the oil trade deficit an increasingly less appropriate indicator. The revised presentation focuses attention on the overall visible trade and current account position.

The oil figures will, however, continue to be given in Table 12. With the growing importance of North Sea oil production and the flow of exports from this production which has now begun, Table 12 has been expanded to show separate figures for the value of exports of crude oil. These figures include oil which has been re-exported.

2 Overseas Trade Statistics

Detailed particulars of United Kingdom imports and exports for May with cumulative totals will be published on 25 June* and further analysis of the figures will be found in Tables 125 to 143 in the Monthly Digest for June†, due to be published in the second week of July.

* Overseas Trade Statistics of the United Kingdom, published by HMSO, price £4.75 (Annual subscription £64.44).
† Monthly Digest of Statistics, published by HMSO, price £1.45 (Annual subscription including Supplement of Definitions and postage £21.28).

TABLE 12 Trade in petroleum and petroleum products¶ On a Balance of Payments basis (Division 33 of SITC(R))

Seasonally adjusted

	Balance of Visible trade	Imports				Rest of Division 33	Exports		Rest of Division 33
		Total	Crude oil				Total	Crude oil	
	£ million f.o.b.	£ million f.o.b.	£ million f.o.b.	million f.o.b.	Average value per ton £ f.o.b.	£ million f.o.b.	£ million f.o.b.	£ million f.o.b.	£ million f.o.b.
1974	−3,423	4,119	3,342	109.4	30.6	777	696	29	667
1975	−3,114	3,835	3,071	85.8	35.8	764	721	30	691
1974 1st quarter	−730	866	703	28.5	24.8	163	136	3	133
2nd quarter	−890	1,092	902	28.3	32.0	190	202	12	190
3rd quarter	−897	1,080	868	26.5	32.9	212	183	6	177
4th quarter	−906	1,081	869	26.1	33.4	212	175	8	167
1975 1st quarter	−766	943	753	22.1	34.2	190	177	7	170
2nd quarter	−689	843	698	20.7	33.7	145	154	1	153
3rd quarter	−795	985	806	22.7	35.6	179	190	6	184
4th quarter	−864	1,064	814	20.3	40.2	250	200	16	184
1976 1st quarter	−959	1,180	931	21.5	43.4	249	221	18	203
March r	−285	382	280	6.5	43.5	102	97	5	92
April r	−336	423	333	7.5	44.3	90	87	3	84
May p	−328	423	326	7.1	46.1	97	95	12	83
1975 December-February 1976	−988	1,166	929	21.6	43.0	237	177	20	157
March-May	−948	1,228	939	21.1	44.6	289	280	19	261
Percentage change		+5½	+1	−2½	+3½	+22	+58	−3	+65

p Provisional estimates r Revised estimates. ¶ See notes 1(h) and 1(l).

TABLE 13 Derivation of the visible trade figures on a balance of payments basis

£ million

	Exports				Imports			
	Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†			Recorded	Seasonally adjusted†		
	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (fob)	Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Overseas Trade Statistics basis (cif)	Adjustments to BOP basis: Valuation adjustments	Adjustments to BOP basis: Coverage adjustments	Balance of Payments basis (fob)
1974	16,600	16,600	−705	15,895	23,283	23,283	−1,652	−472	21,159
1975	19,929	19,929	−1,156	18,772	24,163	24,163	−1,604	−587	21,972
1974 1st quarter	3,617	3,637	−156	3,481	5,386	5,281	−418	−85	4,778
2nd quarter	4,188	4,145	−138	4,007	6,014	5,949	−421	−154	5,373
3rd quarter	4,258	4,430	−208	4,222	5,807	6,005	−415	−115	5,475
4th quarter	4,536	4,388	−203	4,185	6,076	6,049	−398	−118	5,533
1975 1st quarter	4,595	4,781	−249	4,532	5,882	5,879	−374	−122	5,382
2nd quarter	4,943	4,744	−265	4,479	5,844	5,632	−385	−87	5,160
3rd quarter	4,798	4,940	−305	4,635	6,010	6,191	−415	−155	5,621
4th quarter	5,593	5,464	−337	5,126	6,427	6,462	−430	−222	5,809
1976 1st quarter	5,818	5,775	−334	5,441	6,820	6,612	−433	−268	5,911
1975 December	1,898	1,854	−93	1,761	2,104	2,195	−145	−103	1,946
1976 January r	1,783	1,881	−104	1,777	2,137	2,181	−143	−64	1,974
February r	1,775	1,880	−129	1,751	2,134	2,250	−144	−102	2,004
March r	2,260	2,014	−101	1,913	2,549	2,181	−146	−102	1,933
April r	2,032	2,042	−94	1,948	2,548	2,500	−161	−128	2,211
May p	2,073	2,136	−122	2,014	2,459	2,577	−168	−53	2,356
1975 Dec.-Feb. 1976	5,456	5,615	−326	5,289	6,375	6,626	−432	−269	5,924
Mar.-May	6,365	6,192	−317	5,876	7,556	7,258	−475	−283	6,500
Percentage change	+17	+10		+11	+19	+9½			+9½

† Components and totals are rounded independently. p Provisional estimates. r Revised estimates.

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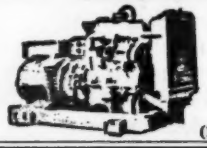

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